Giant Spider & Me
A Post-Apocalyptic Tale 3
story & art by
Kikori Morino

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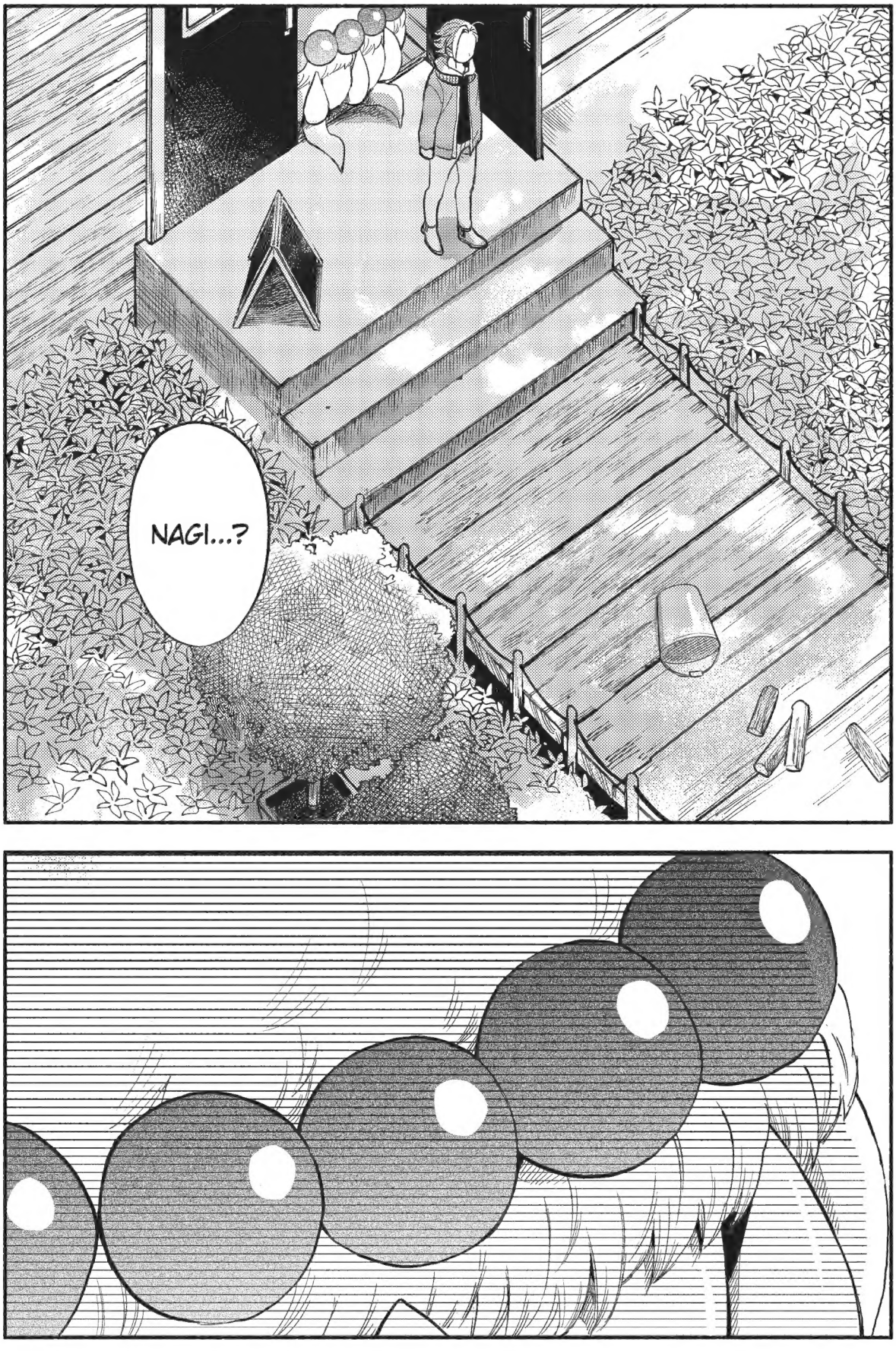

NAGI...?

NOOM
AH!
ASA! COME BACK!
WHAT'S WRONG?
CRAP! NOW I'VE GOTTA GO AFTER THEM!
CALM DOWN. WHERE'S NAGI?
SHE'S MISS-ING!

Chapter 10: Danger & Pita Pocket Sandwiches

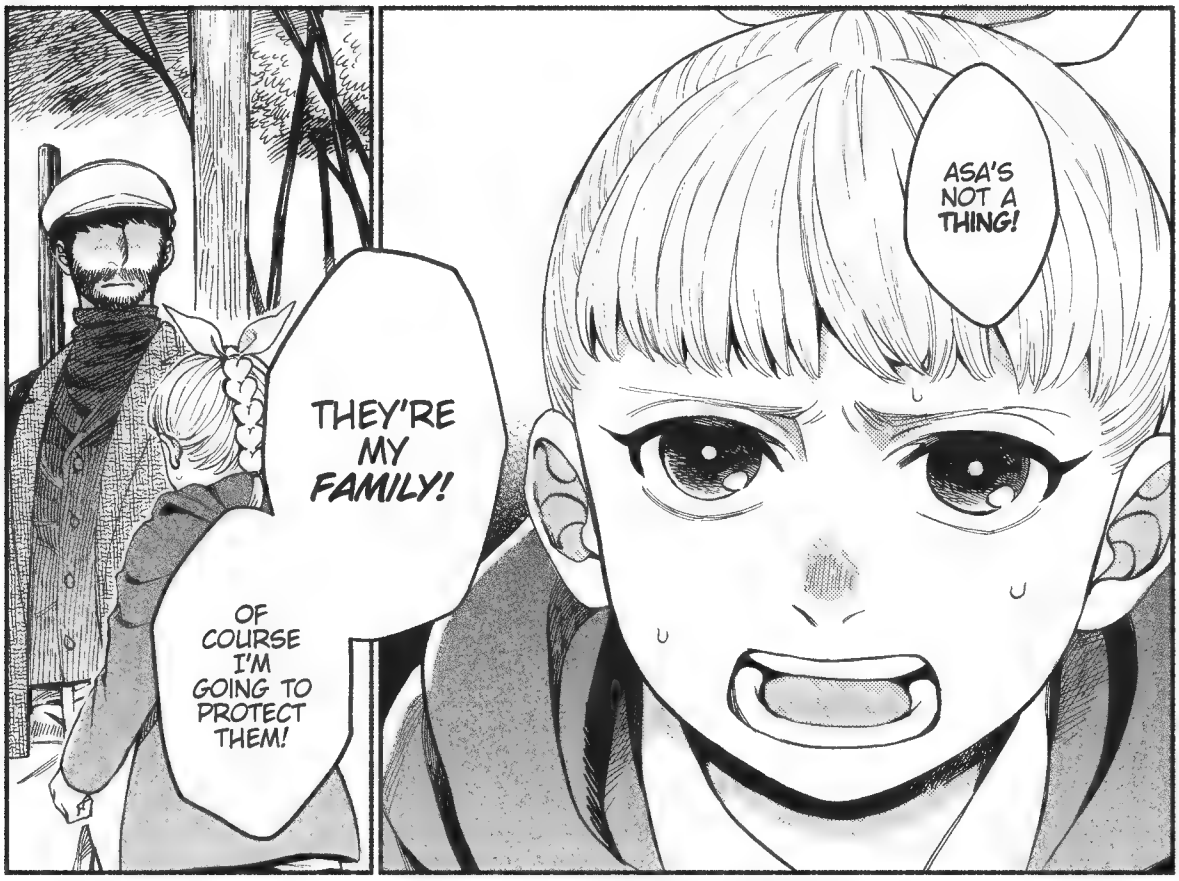
OLEG-SAN, PLEASE!
LET GO...!
SKWEEN
OW!
THAT HURTS!

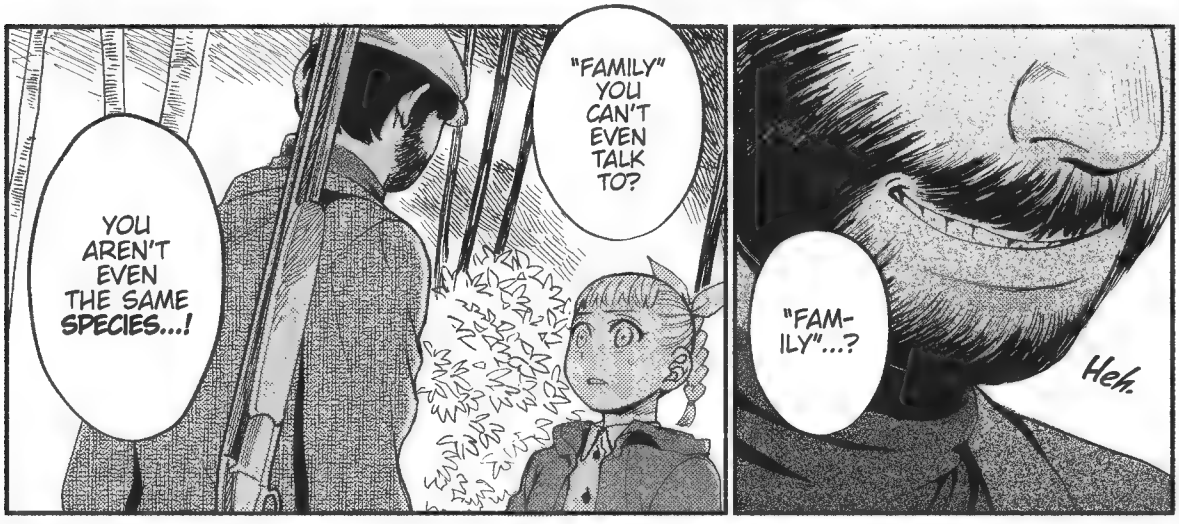
RELEASE
I WON'T TELL YOU AGAIN.

GET RID OF THAT MONSTER.

N-NO.
I WON'T DO THAT.

WHY ARE YOU SO DETERMINED TO DEFEND THAT THING?


ASA'S NOT A THING!
THEY'RE MY FAMILY!
OF COURSE I'M GOING TO PROTECT THEM!


"FAMILY" YOU CAN'T EVEN TALK TO?
YOU AREN'T EVEN THE SAME SPECIES...!
"FAM-ILY"...?
Heh.

DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE AN "EMOTIONAL CONNECTION" OR SOME GARBAGE LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE DELUDING YOURSELF.
EVEN FOR A CHILD, YOU'RE NAÏVE.

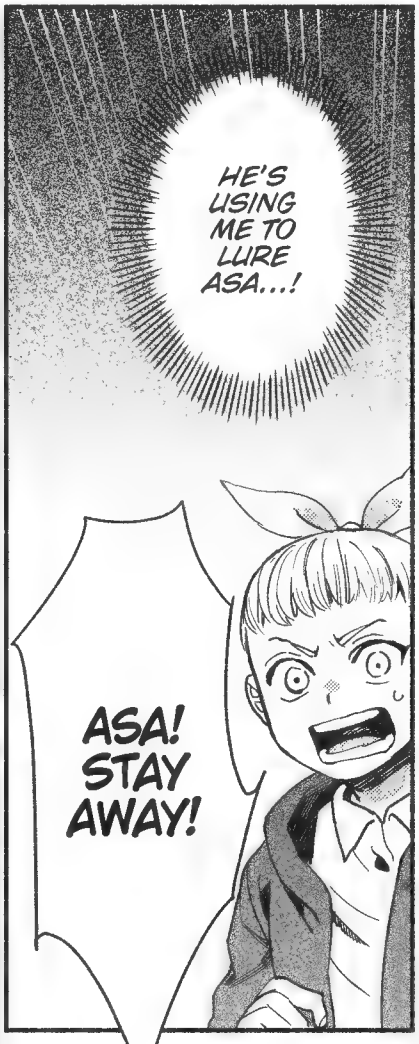
THAT CRITTER SEES YOU AS NOTHING BUT A CONVENIENT FOOD DISPENSER.
YOU'RE AN EASY SOURCE OF FOOD AND SHELTER. WHY WOULDN'T IT STAY NEAR YOU?
THAT MONSTER WON'T BE A BABY FOREVER.
IF WE LET IT STICK AROUND, SOONER OR LATER IT'LL THREAT-EN THE VILLAGE.
OTHER FOLKS MAY BE CONTENT TO SIT BACK AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS...
BUT *I'M* NOT THAT STUPID.
GIVEN THAT...
I'LL DEAL WITH IT, EVEN IF NO ONE BACKS ME. THAT'S HOW IT IS.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
WHY DOES ASA UPSET YOU SO BADLY...?
OKAY.
LET ME TELL YOU A STORY.
I...
USED TO HAVE A DAUGHTER. ABOUT YOUR AGE.
THIS WAS LONG AGO, BEFORE I MOVED HERE.

FROM ITS PERSPECTIVE, I SUPPOSE IT WAS JUST PLAYFULLY SWATTING AT A TOY...
BACK THEN, IN MY OLD VILLAGE, WE FOUND AN ORPHANED BEAR CUB.
WE TOOK IT IN AND CARED FOR IT.
THE DAY IT CLAWED MY DAUGHTER, LEAVING GASHES THAT WENT SEPTIC.
THAT'S WHEN I LEARNED HOW DANGEROUS IT IS TO TRUST A CREATURE...
YOU CAN'T COMMUNICATE WITH.

SOUNDS LIKE IT FOUND US.
I TOLD YOU.
I'LL DO WHAT NO ONE ELSE WILL.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WAIT!
AH!

HAH. AS IT IF UNDER-STANDS YOU--!

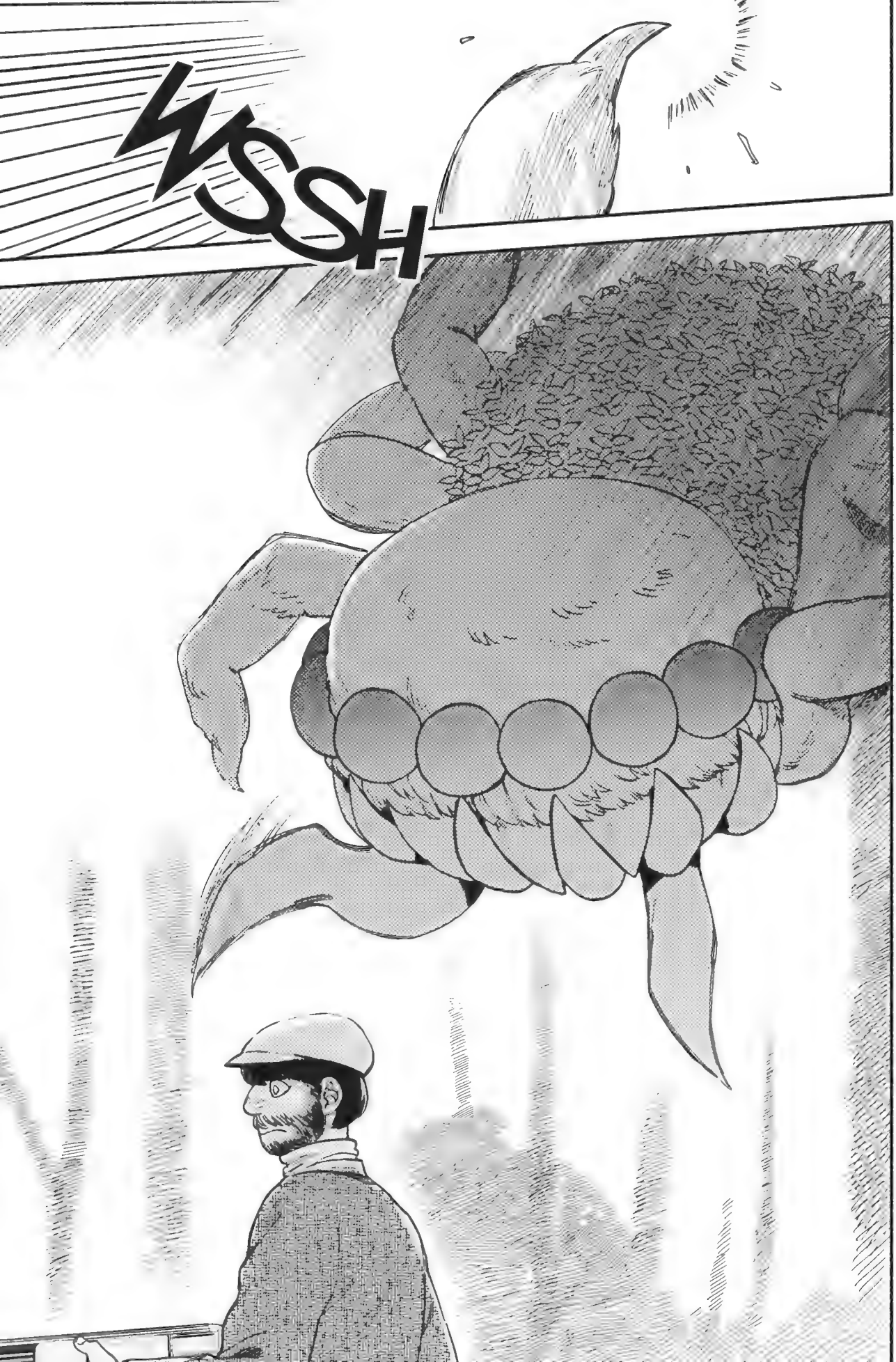

HE'S USING ME TO LURE ASA...!
ASA! STAY AWAY!

KEEP QUIET AND WATCH.
PSTL
PSTL

PSTL

BIAAAAM

?!
NOTH-
ING.
DID I
MISS?


WSSH

SHOVE
FWUMP

I SAID...
MOVE!
Y-YOU LITTLE IDIOT...!
GET OUT OF THE WAY! THIS IS DANGER-OUS!
NAGI!
NOT UNTIL YOU SWEAR YOU WON'T HURT ASA!
I'M NOT GONNA BUDGE!

BECAUSE I THINK YOU'RE DOING THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE SCARED OF ASA!
. . . !
WHY, OLEG-SAN?!
CAN'T YOU THINK OF ANY OTHER WAY?!
YOU...
TMP...
YOU SHUT YOUR MOUTH, CHILD! I AM NOT--

POFF
?
!
YOINK
ASA...
バキュ
SNAP
AH!

TUG
ASA...
ポイ
TOSS
.....!
FLOP
UGH...
NAGI, ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH. I'M FINE.

.....
I CAN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES.
IT'S STILL A WILD BEAST, AND WILD BEASTS CAN BE DANGER-OUS.
AT LEAST ONE PERSON HAS TO REMEMBER TO BE CAUTIOUS OF IT.

IT CAN STAY ...
BUT THE **SECOND** IT CAUSES TROUBLE, IT'S GONE.

.....
ONE STRIKE AND IT'S OUT. UNDER-STOOD?

I'LL MAKE YOU A **DEAL.**
BUT...

LOOM
IF I MAY INTER-JECT?

I OWN THE CAFÉ ON THE SHIP JUST DOWN THE WAY.
CAFÉ ON A SHIP...?
OH, YOU MEAN THAT STRANGE BUILDING.

GOOD EVE-NING.
ER... WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT?!
YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY BE INVITING HIM--
MRPH!
IT'S STARTING TO GET DARK, SO...
TO CELEBRATE YOU FINDING OUR CAFÉ, WHY DON'T YOU PAY US A QUICK VISIT?
HUH...?
HE IS A POTENTIAL CUSTOMER.
SHEESH ...

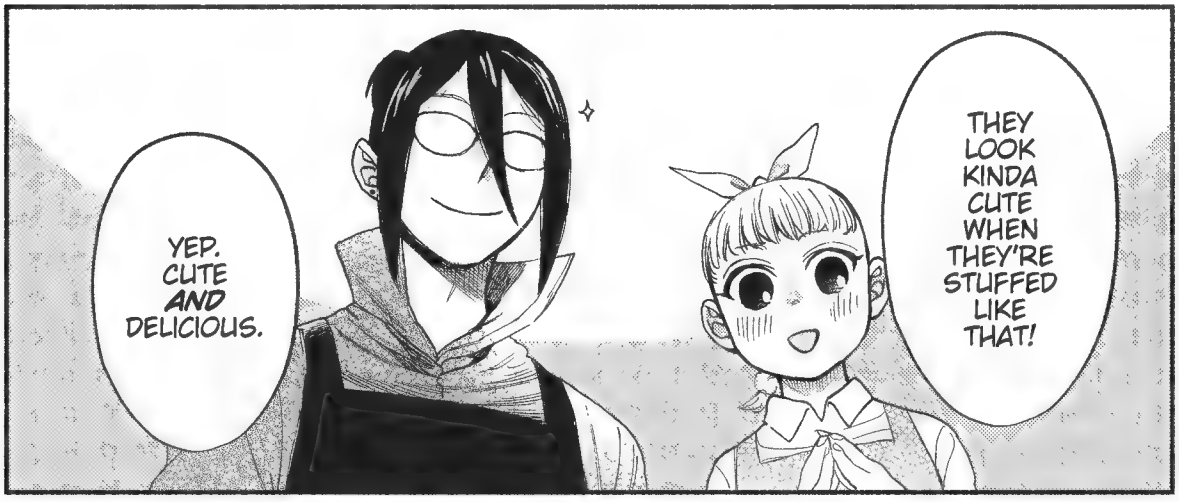
INSIDE, IT LOOKS WAY MORE NORMAL THAN I EXPECTED.
OF COURSE IT DOES.
HERE.
THANKS.
SINCE YOU'RE HERE, HOW ABOUT I MAKE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT?
REALLY...?
WELL, I COULD GO FOR SOME-THING LIGHT.
NAGI, WOULD YOU HELP, PLEASE?

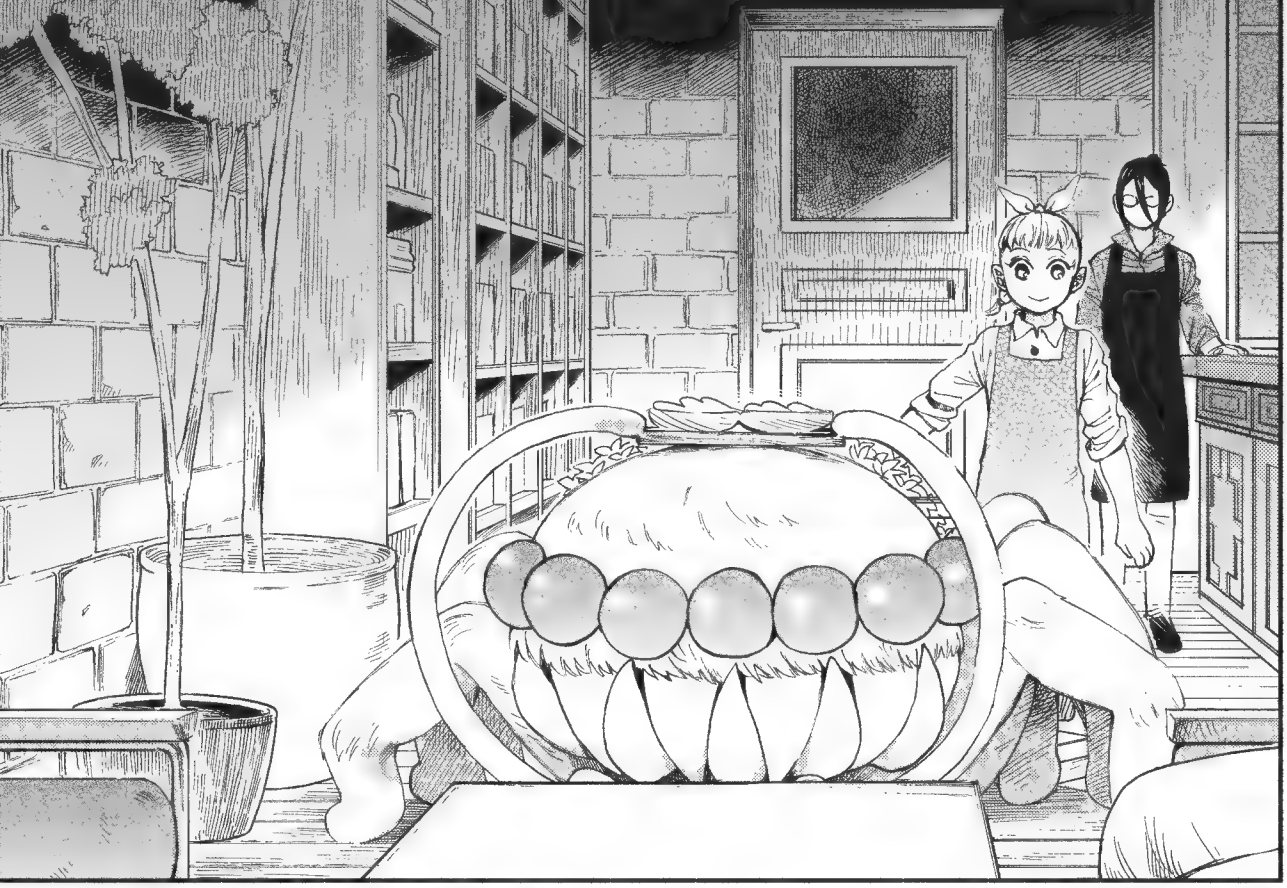
FROM THE INGREDIENTS, WE'RE MAKING... BREAD, RIGHT?
GOOD EYE.
A QUICK AND EASY FLAT-BREAD, YES.
FIRST, WE'LL MIX SOME BREAD FLOUR, BAKING POWDER, AND A PINCH OF SALT AND SUGAR.
Just until they're combined.
QWUP QWUP
THEN WE'LL GRADUALLY ADD WARM WATER WHILE KNEADING THE MIXTURE INTO DOUGH.

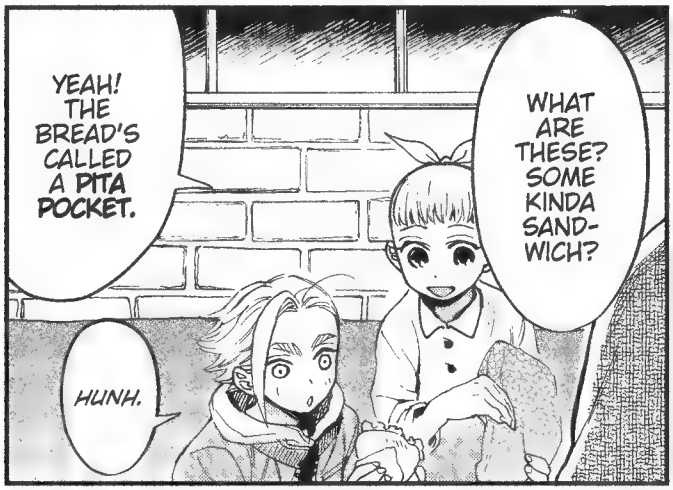
ROLL EACH BALL OUT INTO A THIN DISC...
ROLL
ROLL
ONCE IT'S RISEN, SPLIT IT INTO SIX PORTIONS AND FORM BALLS.
ONCE WE HAVE OUR DOUGH, WE'LL LET IT REST IT IN A WARM SPOT FOR HALF AN HOUR OR SO.
Cover it with a damp cloth.
THEN COOK THEM IN A FRYING PAN GENEROUSLY GREASED WITH VEGETABLE OIL.
じゅうう

WOW, THEY'RE REALLY PUFFING UP!
PWUFF
ONCE THEY'RE NICE AND PUFFY, FLIP THEM.
WHEN THE OTHER SIDE IS BROWNED, THEY'RE DONE.
COOL THEM ON A WIRE RACK...
AND WHEN THEY'RE READY, CUT THEM IN HALF.
CHOP
OOH! THEY'RE LIKE LITTLE BREAD POCKETS!
YEP. YOU CAN FILL THEM WITH WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.
Or bacon or cheese or eggs.
Corn and lettuce and cucumbers...

PITA POCKET SANDWICHES
200 grams bread flour
6 grams baking powder
1 tablespoon sugar
1 pinch salt
150cc warm water
any desired fillings

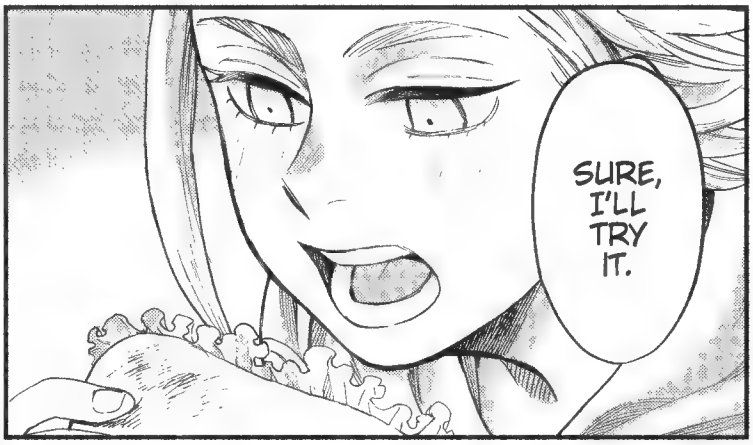

THEY LOOK KINDA CUTE WHEN THEY'RE STUFFED LIKE THAT!
YEP. CUTE AND DELICIOUS.

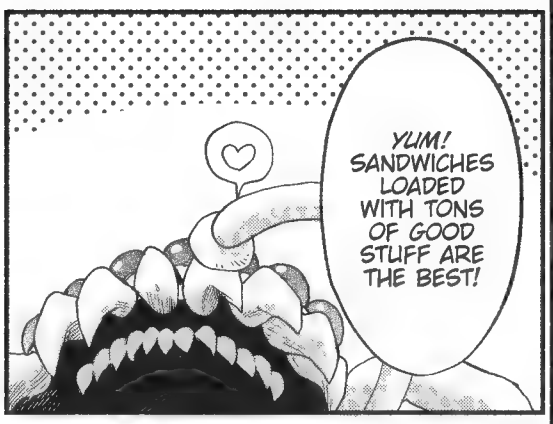



WHAT ARE THESE? SOME KINDA SAND-WICH?
YEAH! THE BREAD'S CALLED A PITA POCKET.
HUNH.

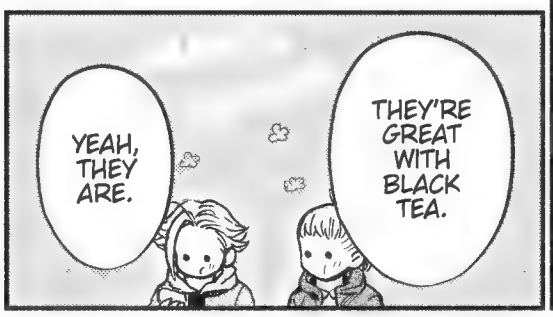
TUNK
HERE YOU GO. ENJOY.

MUNCH


SURE, I'LL TRY IT.


YUM! SANDWICHES LOADED WITH TONS OF GOOD STUFF ARE THE BEST!

MMMMM!


YEAH, THEY ARE.
THEY'RE GREAT WITH BLACK TEA.

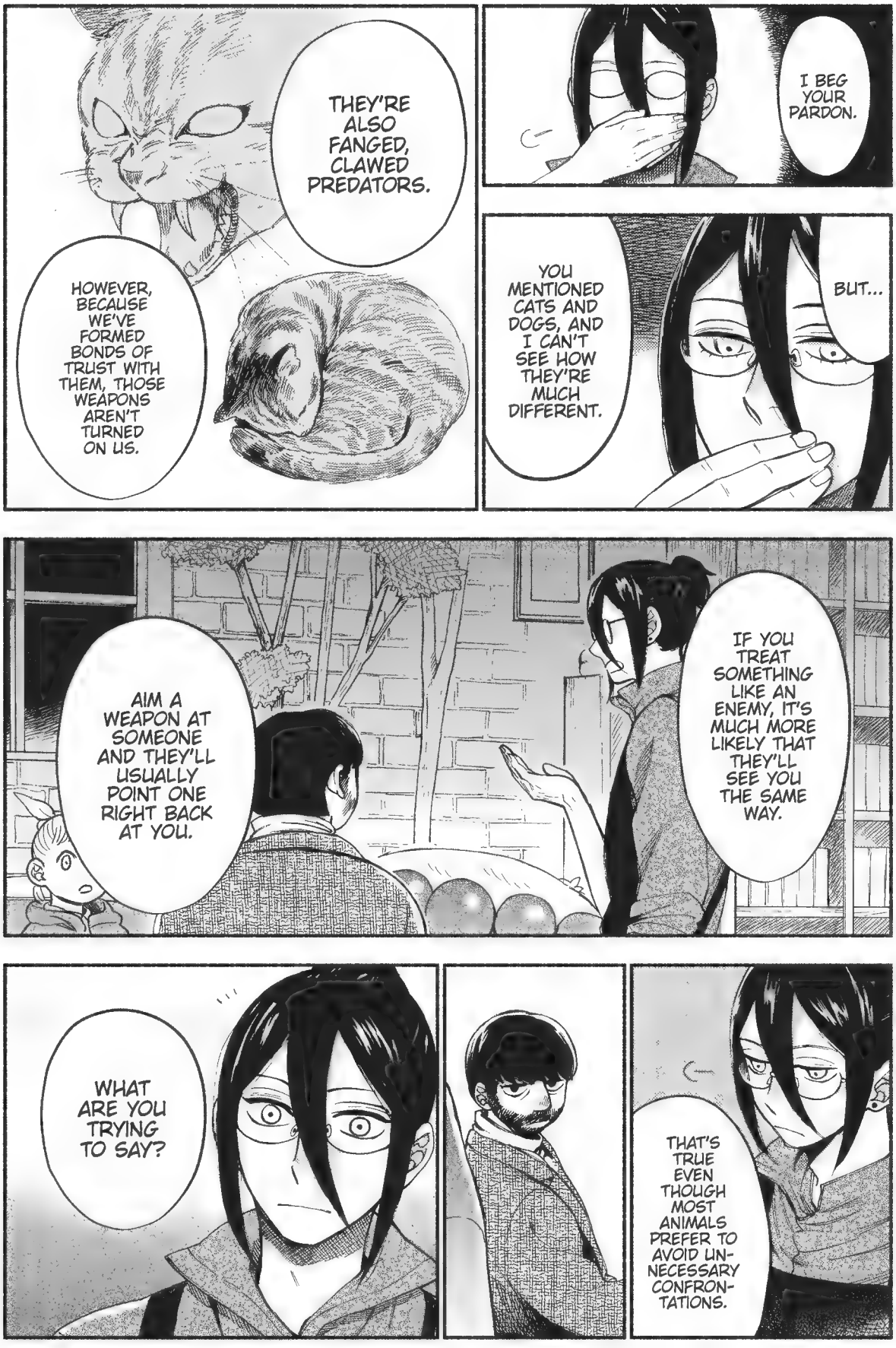
MNCH
MNCH

SO...ARE YOU EVEN REMOTELY SORRY FOR WHAT YOU DID?

SORRY? FOR WHAT?
DON'T GIVE ME THAT.
YOU GRABBED NAGI AND DRAGGED HER OFF INTO THE WOODS!
YOU PUT HER IN DANGER.
BELLE! IT'S OKAY. I'M FINE.
IT IS NOT OKAY!
MUST WE DISCUSS THAT AGAIN?
DON'T YOU THINK YOU OWE NAGI AN APOLOGY?
UM, YES. YOU WENT WAY TOO FAR!

WHAT?!
WHAT'S MORE, MY HUNTING RIFLE WAS DESTROYED.
I THINK I'M OWED AN APOLOGY.
NO...
I DON'T FEEL THAT I DID ANY-THING WRONG.
.....
WHAT I FIND IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE IS THAT...
YOU'RE BLITHELY SITTING BESIDE THAT THING, EATING SANDWICHES... IN WHAT WORLD DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?

AH, I SEE.
CATS AND DOGS ARE ONE THING...
BUT THIS BEAST? I'M SHOCKED YOU CAN SIT THAT CLOSE TO IT WITHOUT WONDERING WHEN IT'LL DECIDE TO MAKE A SANDWICH OUT OF YOU.
LOOK AT ITS CLAWS.
THE VICIOUS FANGS.
THE MASSIVE BODY.
EXCUSE ME?
YOU'VE CHOSEN TO CLING TO YOUR PREJUDICES...
RATHER THAN EVEN TRY TO SEE ASA FOR WHAT THEY ARE.


THEY'RE ALSO FANGED, CLAWED PREDATORS.
HOWEVER, BECAUSE WE'VE FORMED BONDS OF TRUST WITH THEM, THOSE WEAPONS AREN'T TURNED ON US.
I BEG YOUR PARDON.
BUT...
YOU MENTIONED CATS AND DOGS, AND I CAN'T SEE HOW THEY'RE MUCH DIFFERENT.
AIM A WEAPON AT SOMEONE AND THEY'LL USUALLY POINT ONE RIGHT BACK AT YOU.
IF YOU TREAT SOMETHING LIKE AN ENEMY, IT'S MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT THEY'LL SEE YOU THE SAME WAY.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
THAT'S TRUE EVEN THOUGH MOST ANIMALS PREFER TO AVOID UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATIONS.

I GUESS I'M SAYING...
THAT YOU SHOULD TRY PETTING ASA AT LEAST ONCE...
WITHOUT ANY FEAR OR ANIMOSITY COLORING IT.

STAAAAARE
Hah!
I'M NOT SCARED OF THAT THING.
.....
REACH

FLINCH
TP
"PAPA! PAPA! YOU SHOULD PET IT, TOO!

"FEEL HOW SOFT AND WARM IT IS!"
IT'S WARM...

TUP
NUZL SHUV NUZL SHUV
NUZL
SHUV
NUZL
IT LIKES ME...?!
GUESS THAT'S ASA'S WAY OF SAYING THEY LIKE YOU NOW.
WHY IS IT PUSHING AT ME ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
WHAT THE HECK ...?!

Gyaah!
You don't hafta do it to me, too, dumb spider!
NUZL
NUZL
.....
NUZL SHUV
NUZL SHUV
WELL, NOW I'M JEALOUS.
NEITHER OF US COULD HAVE HELD BACK.
HM?
OH, IT WAS NOTH-ING.
UM... THANKS FOR STEPPING IN, EARLIER.
I'M A FAN OF ASA'S, YOU KNOW.
I COULDN'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH.
RIGHT...!

FINALLY...
BAM
AFTER SIDE-TRACKS AND DELAYS...
THE WINDOW ASA ACCIDENTALLY BROKE WAS GOING TO BE REPAIRED!
BAM

Chapter 11: A New Door & Veggie Chirashi-Sushi

WELCOME!
JANGLE カラン
JANGLE カラン
HELLO, NAGI-CHAN. CAN I TROUBLE YOU FOR A JAM SANDWICH?
SURE!
I'LL TAKE SOME CLAM CHOWDER, PLEASE.
OKAY!
COMING RIGHT UP!
ORDER IN, SIR!
ROGER.
THIS IS AMAZ-ING!

IT TURNED OUT JUST LIKE YOU SAID IT WOULD.
Whew..!

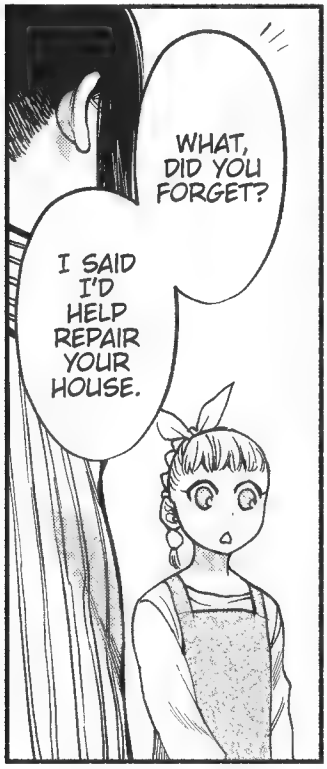
YOU ONLY GOT CUSTOMERS 'CAUSE NAGI AND I WERE GREAT AT SPREADING THE WORD FOR YOU.

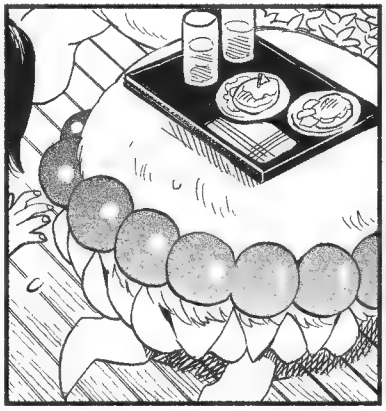
DON'T BE SO SMUG.

NATURALLY. I KNEW PEOPLE WOULD KEEP COMING BACK ONCE THEY'D TASTED WHAT MY CAFÉ HAS TO OFFER.

EX-CUSE ME?!
YOU HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO AND *WANTED* TO HELP.
YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST ADMITTED THAT...
ULTIMATELY, YOU OPTED TO HELP ME OUT AFTER ALL, BLONDIE.
True.
Come visit our new café!

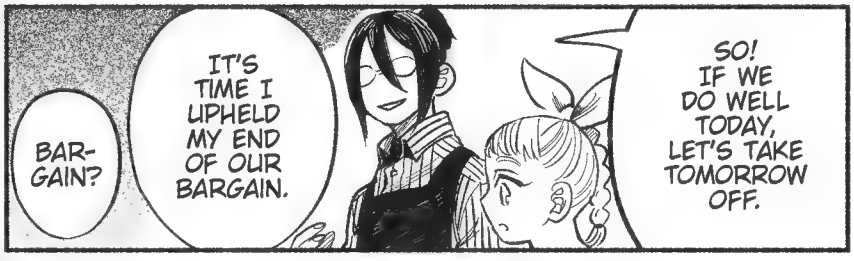
AS IF! I WASN'T HELPING YOU!
I'D HELP YOU OVER MY DEAD BODY! I WAS HELPING NAGI!
UM... RELAX, GUYS.


WHAT, DID YOU FORGET?
I SAID I'D HELP REPAIR YOUR HOUSE.

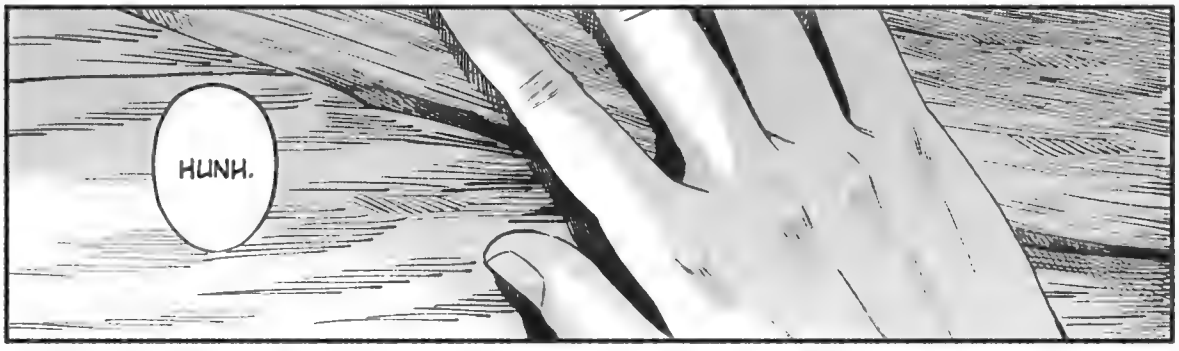


AND JUST LOOK HOW EFFICIENT ASA IS!
HUH?!

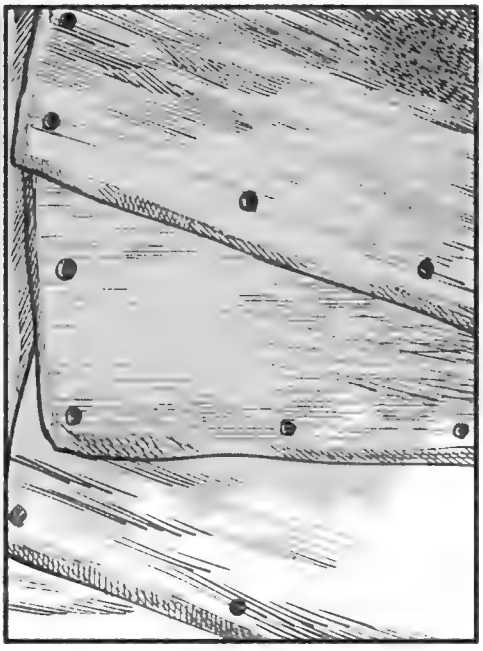
GREAT. HE'S EVEN MORE NUTS THAN NAGI.
THANKS TO ASA, WE'RE GETTING TWICE--NO, THREE TIMES THE SALES!
THE ADORABLE SILHOUETTE, THE ADORABLE GESTURES, THE ADORABLE FUZZINESS...


BAR-GAIN?
IT'S TIME I UPHELD MY END OF OUR BARGAIN.
SO! IF WE DO WELL TODAY, LET'S TAKE TOMORROW OFF.

OH! RIGHT!

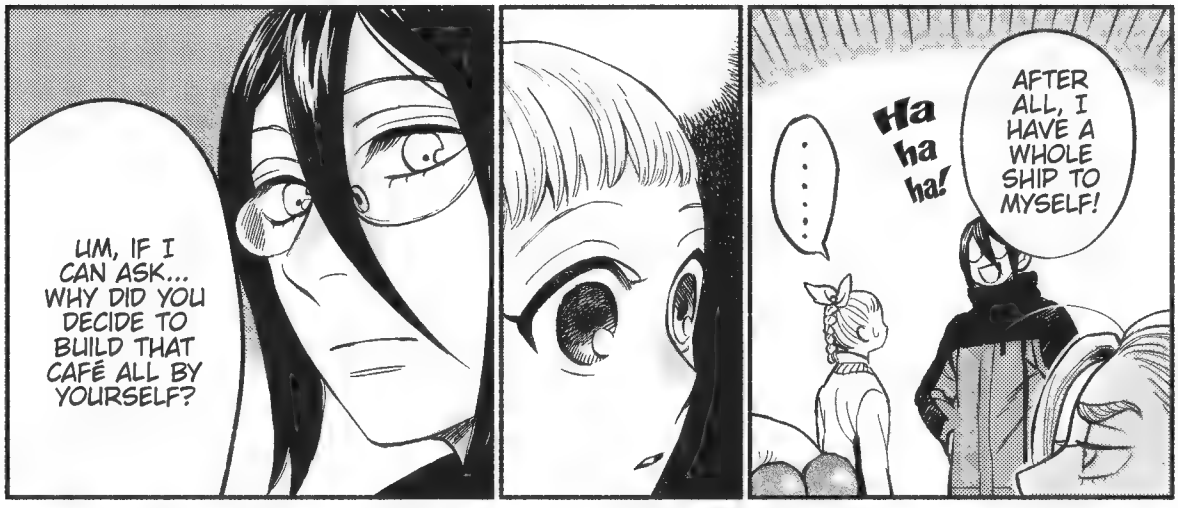

HUNH.

THIS SURE IS A HAPHAZARD PATCH JOB.
BUT I GUESS IT DID THE TRICK FOR A TEMPORARY FIX.



Whew!
FORTUNATELY, IT LOOKS LIKE THE DAMAGE WAS FAIRLY CONTAINED.
BY EVENING, I SHOULD HAVE IT BETTER THAN NEW.
THIS IS A PRETTY BIG HOUSE FOR JUST ONE PERSON.
I HEAR YOU WERE LIVING ALONE UNTIL YOU FOUND ASA?
SNF
Y-YEAH.
I SEE.

WELL, I GUESS MY HOME IS EVEN BIGGER.

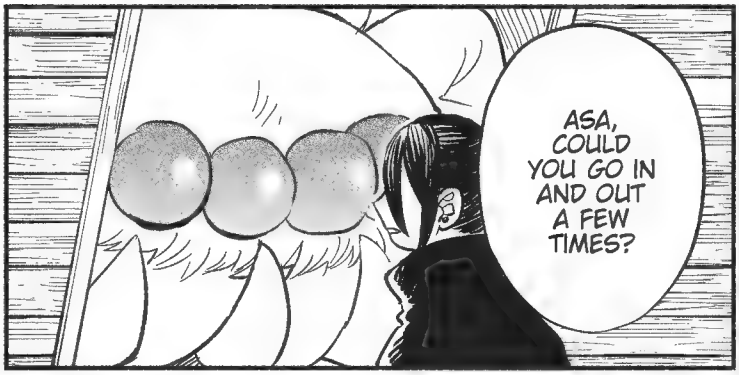

UM, IF I CAN ASK... WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BUILD THAT CAFÉ ALL BY YOURSELF?
AFTER ALL, I HAVE A WHOLE SHIP TO MYSELF!
Ha ha ha!
.....

OH, VARIOUS REASONS.
I'LL TELL YOU MORE AFTER I'VE FINISHED THIS REPAIR JOB.
DO YOU HAVE A STEPLADDER YOU COULD BRING UP?
WE'D BEST GET STARTED BEFORE THE SUN STARTS GOING DOWN.
OKAY!

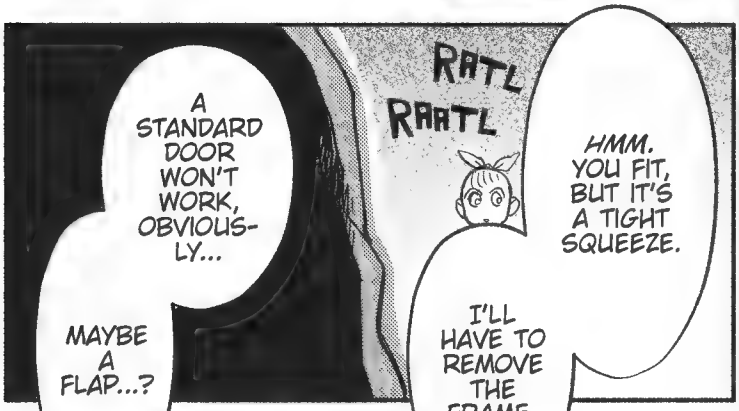
I JUST REMEMBERED! WHERE WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE TO PUT A DOOR FOR ASA TO COME IN AND OUT?
HM?
トンネル
KRUK
KRUK
OH!
ASA BROKE A WINDOW TO GET IN...
TO DO THAT, THEY CLIMBED ALL THE WAY UP TO THE SECOND FLOOR.
THAT TELLS ME THAT CLIMBING IS PROBABLY THE MOST NATURAL THING FOR THEM.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? RIGHT HERE.
HUH?
UM...
GIVEN THAT, THERE'S NO REASON TO TRY TO JURY-RIG THEM A DOOR OF SOME SORT ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

I'LL MAKE SOMETHING UP HERE THAT'S PERFECT FOR THEM.
DON'T WORRY.

BOW
THANK YOU SO MUCH!


ASA, COULD YOU GO IN AND OUT A FEW TIMES?

FIRST, LET'S GET RID OF THIS BROKEN GLASS.


RATL
RRATL
HMM. YOU FIT, BUT IT'S A TIGHT SQUEEZE.
I'LL HAVE TO REMOVE THE FRAME.
A STANDARD DOOR WON'T WORK, OBVIOUSLY...
MAYBE A FLAP...?

!
KREK
Yaawn!
.....
UM, IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?
AH!

HUSTLE
HUSTLE
THUNK
すい
っ

HMM?
HERE! HAVE SOME TEA.

THANKS.
OH.

SO...
CAN I HELP AT ALL?
AH... YOU TRIED TALKING TO ME EARLIER, DIDN'T YOU?
Ahem.
OH... OKAY.
THANKS, BUT NO.
ONE PAIR OF HANDS IS PLENTY FOR THIS.
ALL RIGHT.
ANYWAY, I'LL BE FINE HERE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FUSS OVER ME.
SORRY-- I GET TOTALLY CAUGHT UP IN WHATEVER I'M FOCUSED ON. IT'S A BAD HABIT.

WHY DON'T YOU SIT DOWN AND WAIT? NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
BUT...
YOU SURE ARE FIDGETY, NAGI. WHAT'S UP?
HUH?
I GET KINDA ANTSY.
WHEN I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO DO...
THANKS, BELLE!
Ooh.
OH!
IF YOU'RE DESPER-ATE FOR SOMETHING TO DO, WHY NOT MAKE DINNER?

OKAY!
FIRST, LET'S GET SOME RICE STARTED.

CHOP
CHOP THE CARROT DOWN TO MATCH-STICKS.
SHAVE THE BURDOCK ROOT.
WHILE THAT'S STEAMING, WE'LL CHOP VEGGIES.
AND SEPARATE THE SHIMEJI MUSHROOMS BY HAND.
CUT THE ENOKI MUSHROOM INTO CHUNKS ROUGHLY THREE CENTIMETERS LONG...
NOW WE RUN HOT WATER OVER THE FRIED TOFU TO RINSE OFF THE EXCESS OIL...
DONE!
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
AND THEN SLICE IT INTO STRIPS.

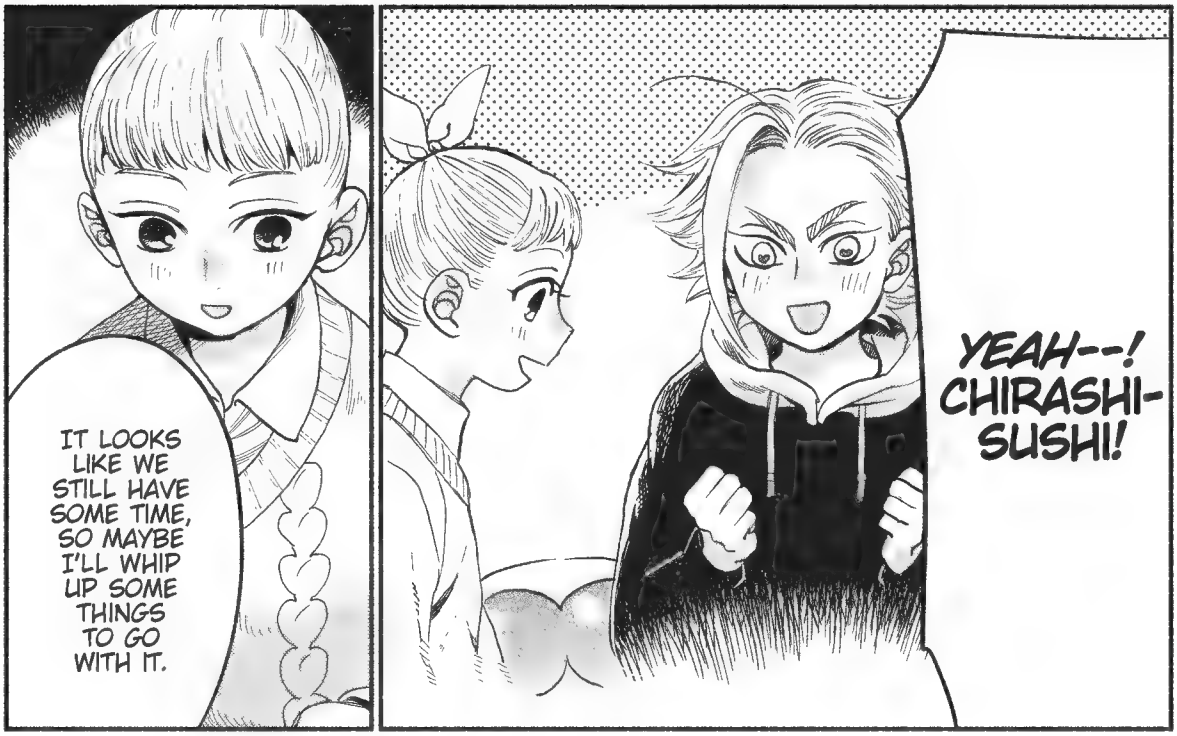
BUR-DOCK ROOT FIRST.
THEN CARROTS.
THEN SHIME-JI...
THEN ENOKI...
HEAT SOME SESAME OIL IN A FRYING PAN...
SIZZ
AND THEN ADD THE VEGGIES ONE BY ONE AND LET THEM COOK.
AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE FRIED TOFU.
SIZZZ
BUBL
BUBL
BUBL
BUBL
A-HA! SOUNDS LIKE THE RICE IS DONE STEAMING.
MAKE A SAUCE FROM TWO TABLE-SPOONS EACH OF VINEGAR, LEMON JUICE, AND SOY SAUCE, PLUS A TEASPOON OF SALT...
AND POUR IT OVER THE VEGGIES ONCE THEY'RE HEATED RIGHT THROUGH.

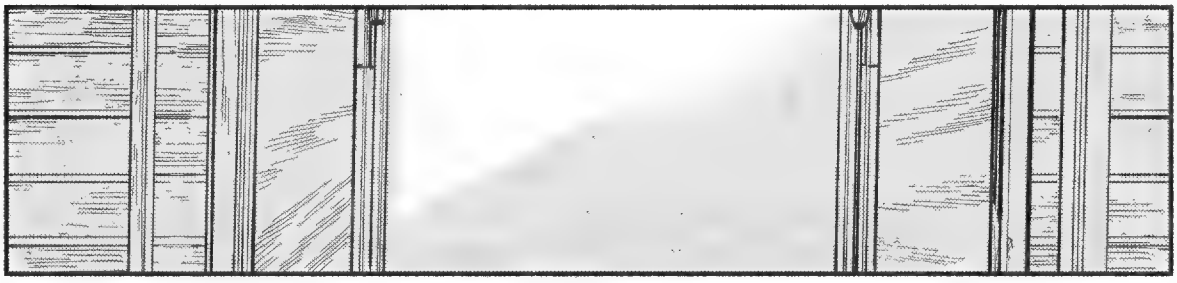
WE'LL DUMP THE COOKED VEGGIES ONTO THE FRESH RICE, SAUCE AND ALL...
AND GIVE IT A GOOD STIR.
SCATTER
TO TOP IT ALL OFF...
SCATTER
WE'LL SPRINKLE SOME ROASTED SESAME SEEDS, MINCED GREEN ONION, AND YUZU ZEST ON IT.
DROOL
MMM! I CAN PRACTICALLY TASTE THE RICE ALREADY-- ALL SWEET 'N' TANGY...!

VEGGIE CHIRASHI-SUSHI

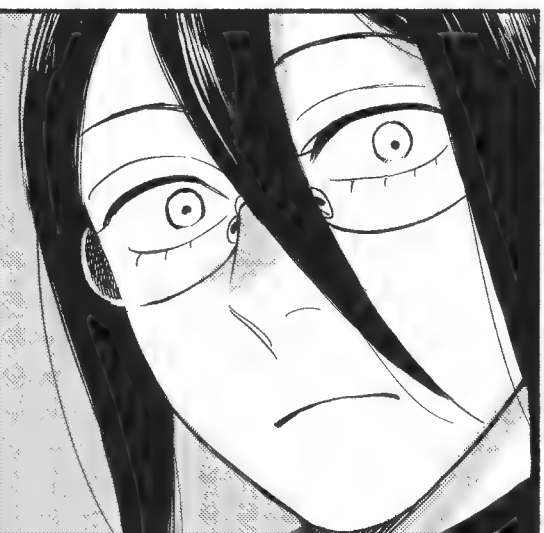
2 cups glutinous rice
1/2 piece aburaage (fried tofu)
5cm burdock root
1/4 carrot
1 bunch shimeji mushrooms
1 bunch enoki mushrooms
1 teaspoon sesame oil
2 tablespoons white sesame seeds
minced green onion to taste
yuzu (citrus) zest to taste

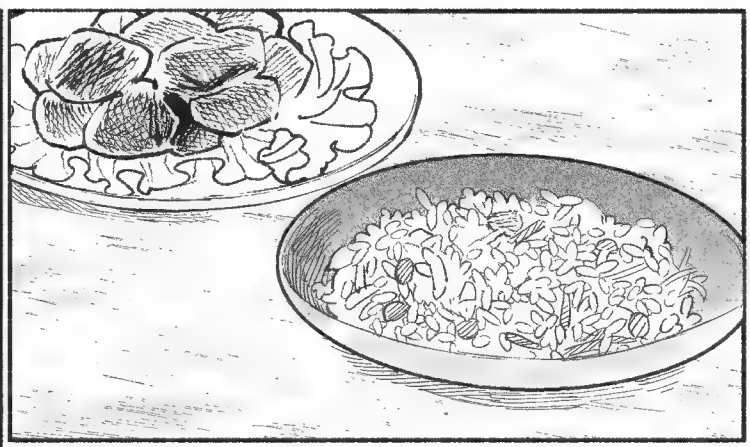
2 tablespoons vinegar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 teaspoon salt


IT LOOKS LIKE WE STILL HAVE SOME TIME, SO MAYBE I'LL WHIP UP SOME THINGS TO GO WITH IT.
YEAH--! CHIRASHI-SUSHI!

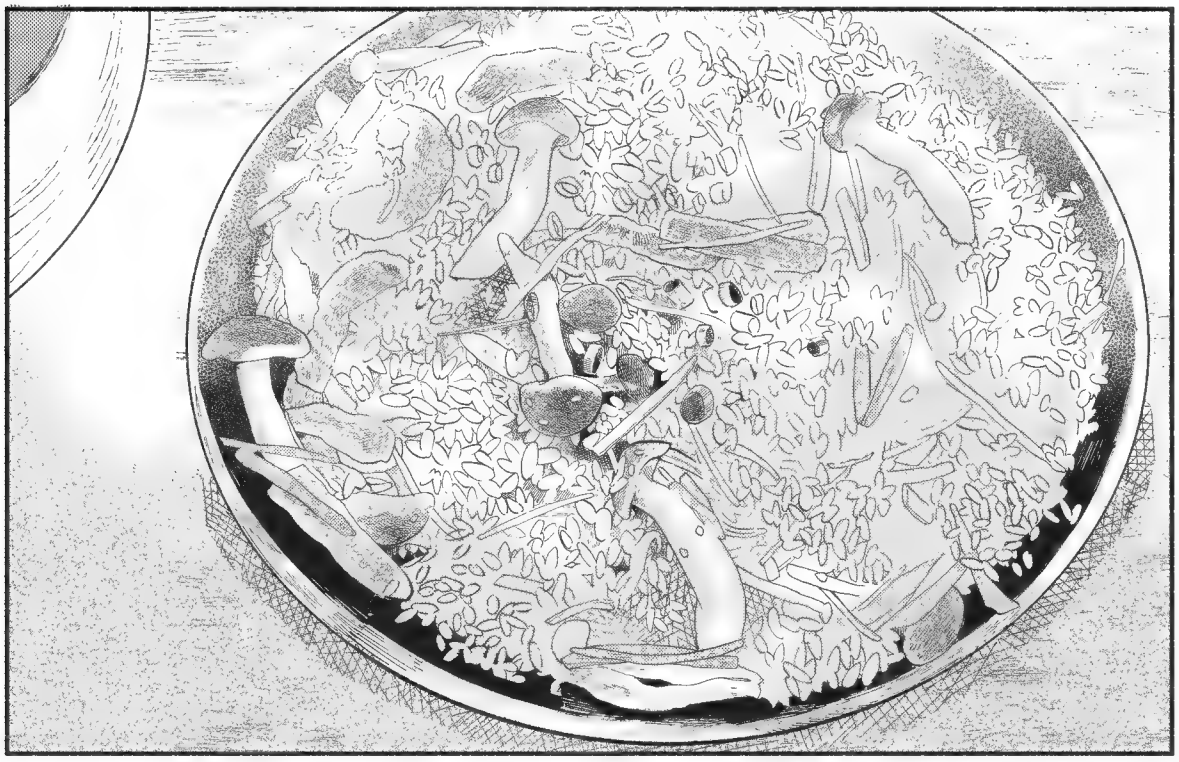


TMP
TMP
I'M FINISHED UPSTAIRS.
Whew...
THERE.
THAT SHOULD DO IT.



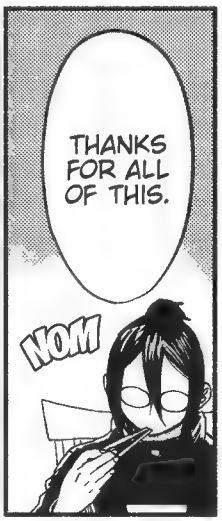


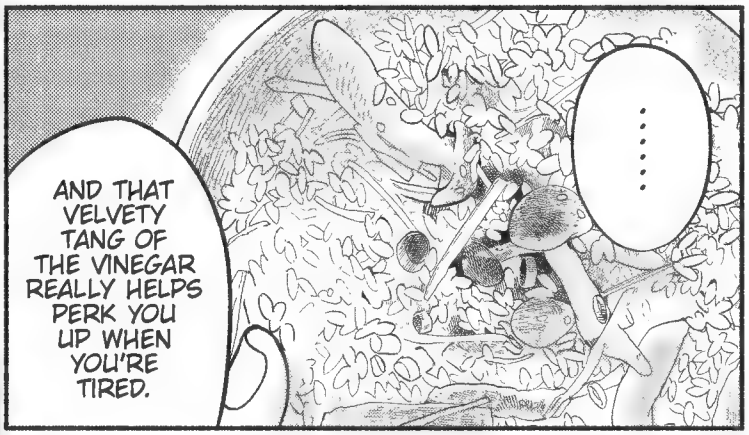
HUH? IS THIS FOR...
WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE GUEST OF HONOR.
THAT'S QUITE A SPREAD.
I WAS SO ABSORBED IN WHAT I WAS DOING I DIDN'T NOTICE.
YOU MADE DINNER?
PLEASE COME SIT DOWN!
SNICKER!
ONCE WE'VE EATEN, COULD WE GO UPSTAIRS SO I CAN SEE HOW IT TURNED OUT?

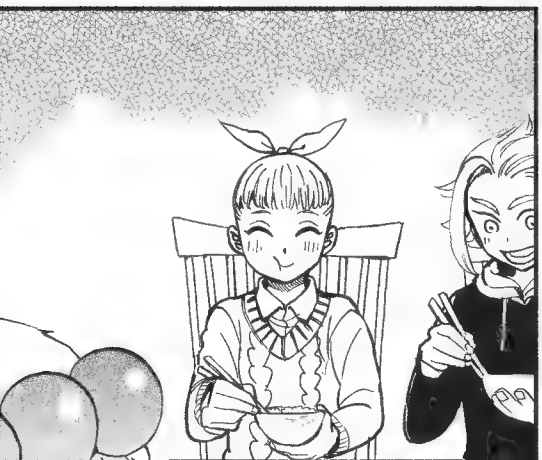


THIS IS GREAT.
THE YUZU ADDS A FRESH, ZESTY AROMA.

MM...!


THANKS FOR ALL OF THIS.
NOM

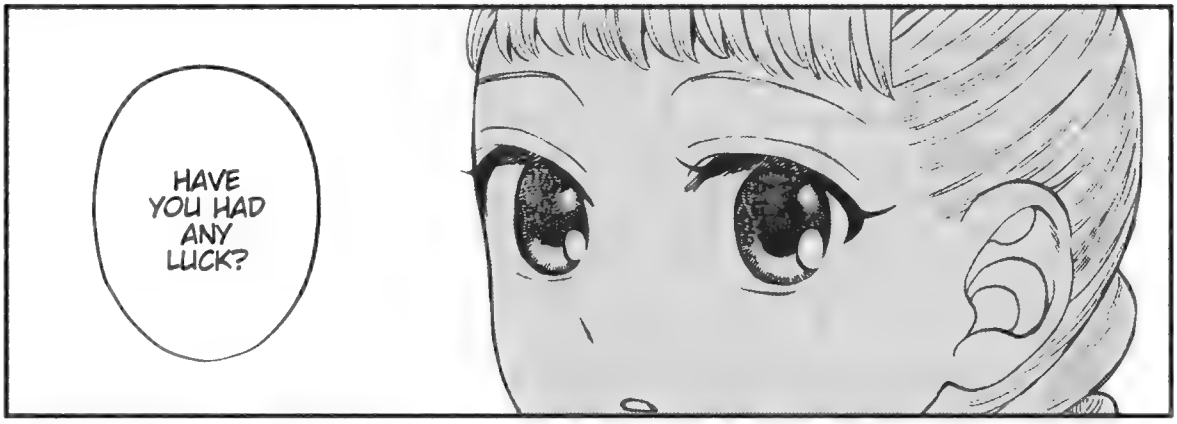

AND THAT VELVETY TANG OF THE VINEGAR REALLY HELPS PERK YOU UP WHEN YOU'RE TIRED.
.....



JUST A QUICK, EASY PUSH OR PULL TO OPEN AND CLOSE IT.
IT'S SIMPLE ENOUGH THAT ASA SHOULD GET THE HANG OF IT.
WOW...!
KREEK
THERE! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
"WHY DID I BUILD THAT CAFÉ ALL BY MYSELF," HMM?
NOW ASA CAN COME AND GO WHENEVER THEY WANT!
DON'T HAVE SO MUCH FUN YOU BREAK IT, ASA.
THAT WAS YOUR QUESTION, RIGHT?

THEY WERE A LOT ALIKE, IN TERMS OF BOTH THEIR WORK AND THEIR TASTES.
I'D DESCRIBE THEM AS THE SERIOUS, TRADITIONAL TYPE.
MY FATHER AND OLDER BROTHER WERE BOTH CARPENTERS.
THE SHORT EXPLANATION IS THAT WE SIMPLY DIDN'T GET ALONG.
バッ
ガ
BR-THUNK
GR-WUNK
ガ
Hey~!
SO REALLY...
AND ME, I WAS THE LONE ODD-BALL WHO LIKED WEIRD, UNUSUAL STUFF.
.....
IT'S NOT SURPRISING WHEN YOU DISAGREE MORE OFTEN THAN YOU AGREE.
A FAMILY IS JUST A GROUP OF STRANGERS WHO HAPPEN TO BE RELATED.

ANYWAY, I DECIDED I'D STRIKE OFF ON MY OWN AND FIND PEOPLE WHO **DID** UNDERSTAND ME.

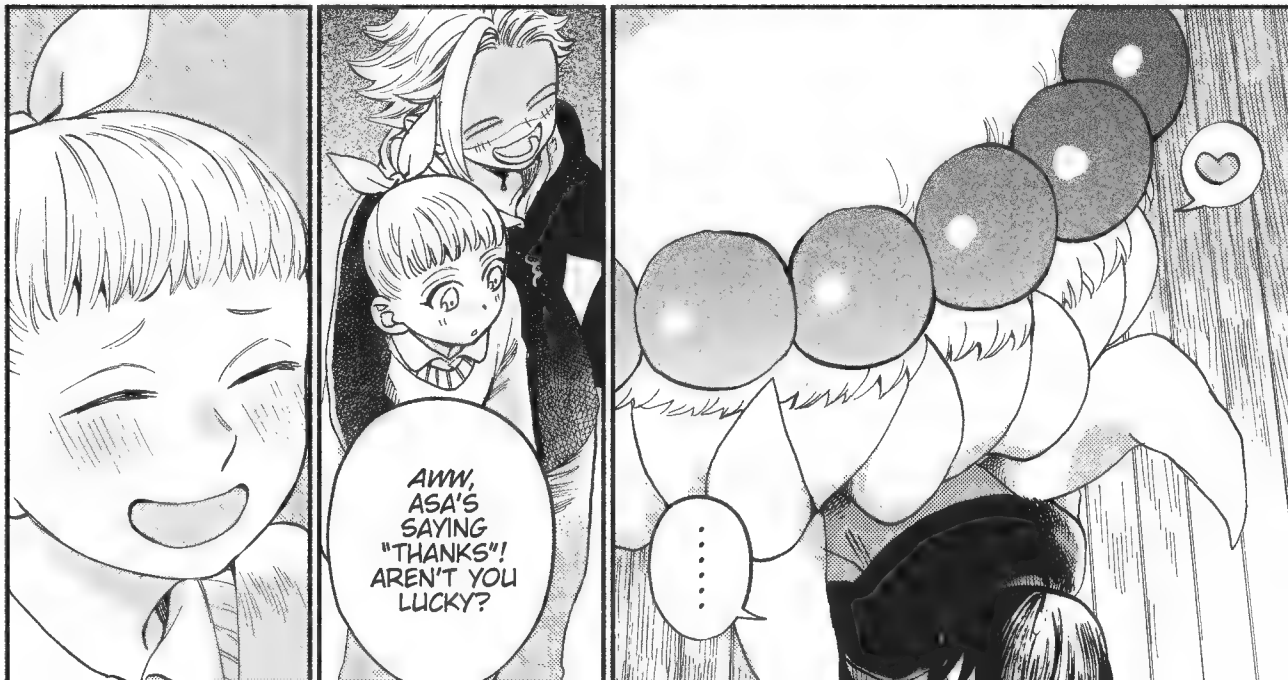

HAVE YOU HAD ANY LUCK?

BUT SINCE I FINISHED BUILDING MY CAFÉ, THINGS HAVE LOOKED PROMISING.

I'VE ONLY BARELY STARTED LOOKING.
IT'S NOT AN EASY THING TO FIND.

NAGI, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ME COME UP WITH DISHES FOR THE MENU?
SPEAKING OF THAT...
YEAH. THAT MEAL YOU MADE WAS PRETTY GOOD. YOU'VE GOT TALENT.
HUH? ME?
I BET YOU'D BE A HUGE DRAW.
REACH
HOW ABOUT IT?

ドーー
WHUMP
YIKES--!

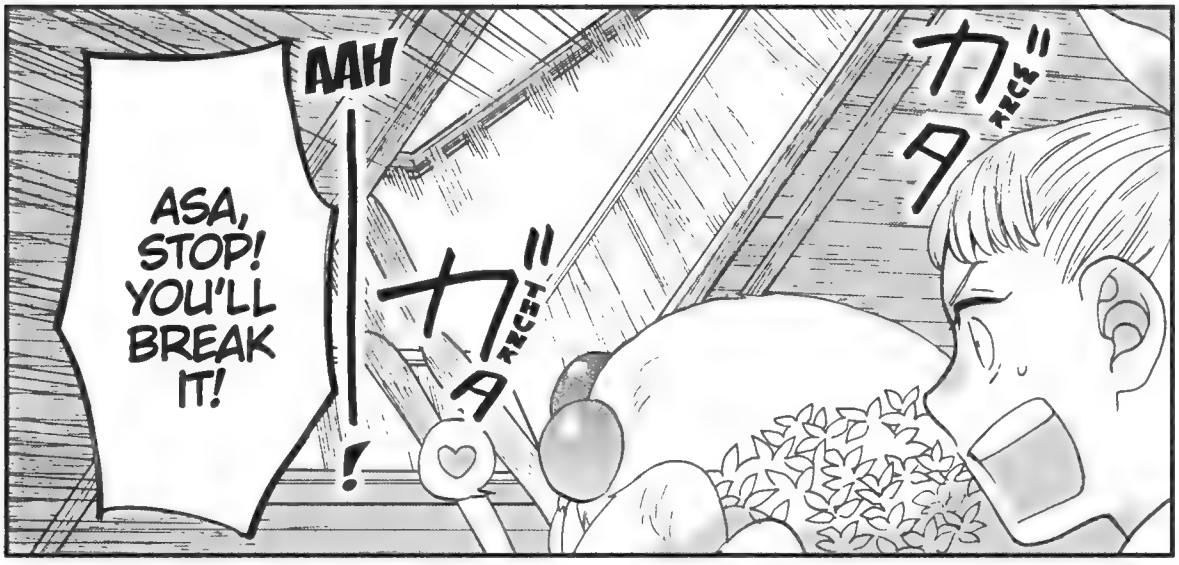

AWW, ASA'S SAYING "THANKS"! AREN'T YOU LUCKY?
.....

BYE! SEE YA TOMORROW!
HEY, ASA?
.....
SINCE YOUR DOOR'S ALL FIXED UP NOW...
WHY DON'T WE GO UP ON THE ROOF AND STARGAZE?

WOW...
BLUG LUG...
IT'S A FULL MOON AND EVERY-THING.
HERE.

I DON'T NEED YOU GOING ALL FLAILY UP HERE ON THE ROOF.
NO, IT'S NOT COFFEE. IT'S HOT CHOCOLATE.
?
YOU KNOW...
IT FINALLY FEELS LIKE WE'RE ACTUALLY *LIVING* TOGETHER HERE.

THE SKY'S SO BEAUTIFUL.


AAH!!
ASA, STOP! YOU'LL BREAK IT!
カタ
KICK
カタ
KICK

Chapter 12: Winter Begins & Chicken and Rice Porridge

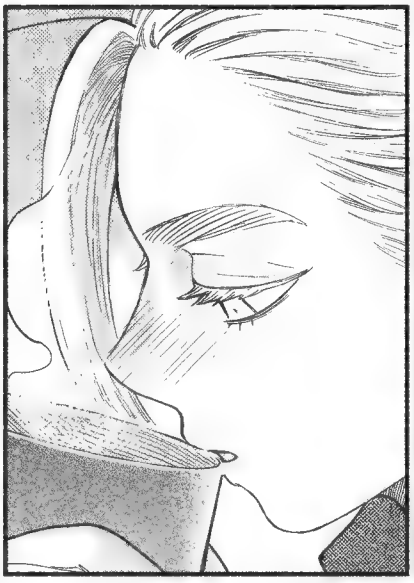
JANGLE
カラン
JANGLE
カラン
THANK YOU! PLEASE COME AGAIN!
Bye now!

We could have a tree, wreaths, garlands...
WELL, IT IS ALMOST CHRISTMAS.
OOH! MAYBE WE SHOULD DECORATE THE CAFÉ FOR THE HOLIDAYS! DON'T YOU THINK THAT WOULD ATTRACT MORE CUSTOMERS?
GOOD IDEA.
ヒュウ
OOOR
BRRR! IT'S REALLY GETTING COLD OUT.
YEAH. I IMAGINE IT'LL SNOW ANY DAY NOW.
JANGLE
WHAT'S WRONG, BELLE?

NNNH!
TOO COLD...! BEING OUTSIDE SUCKS...!
I GUESS THIS MUST BE ASA'S WINTER COAT?
THEY DO SEEM FLUFFIER THAN THEY WERE A FEW WEEKS AGO.
Aaah!
YOU'RE SO LUCKY, ASA! YOU HAVE ALL THAT WONDERFUL WARM FLUFFY FUZZ...!
GLOMP
HMPH. YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO BE A WIMP ABOUT THE COLD.
Sigh...
SHEESH. COME HERE.
I'M NOT SICK...
LIAR!
IF YOU'RE SICK, DON'T SET ONE FOOT INSIDE MY CAFÉ.
HOLD IT.
TINGLE
A-CHOO!

This is...
MY HOMEMADE GINGER SYRUP, DISSOLVED IN HOT WATER.
SNIF
SNIF
?
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'LL WARM YOU UP.
DRINK IT.

YUM!
IT'S SWEET!

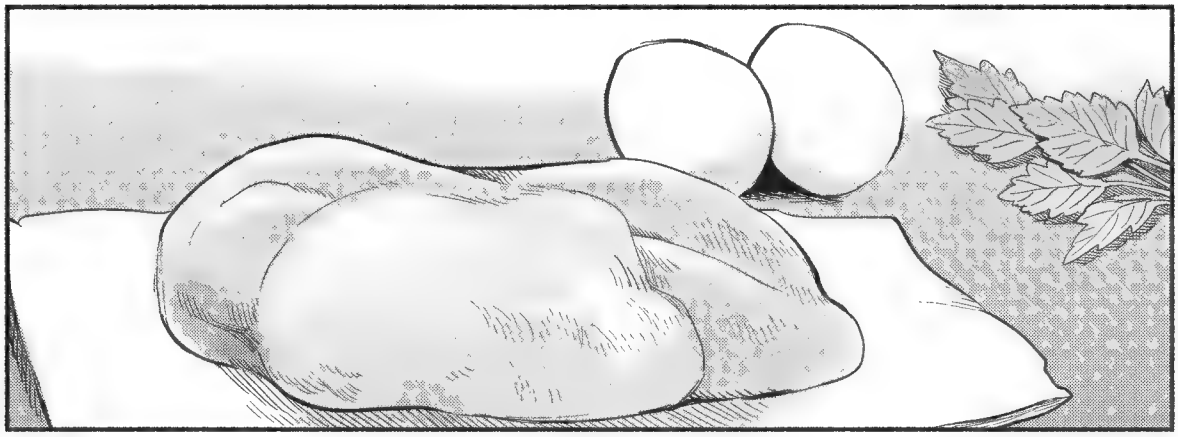


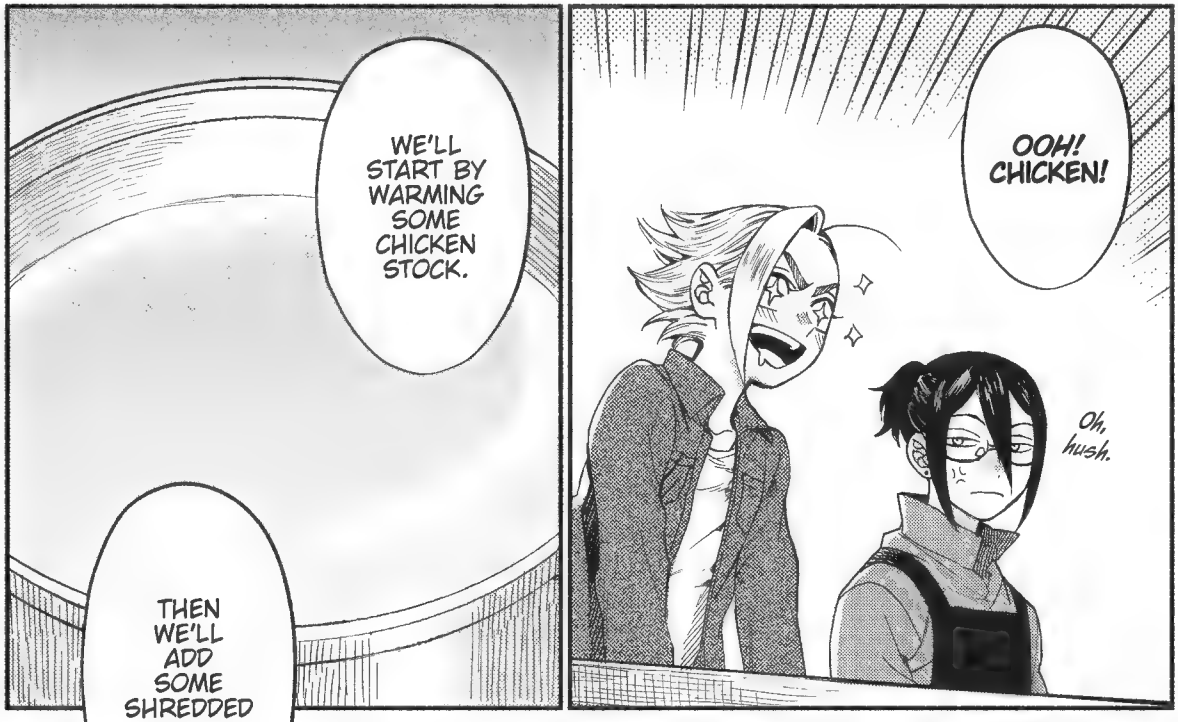
GINGER'S KNOWN FOR WARMING YOU FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

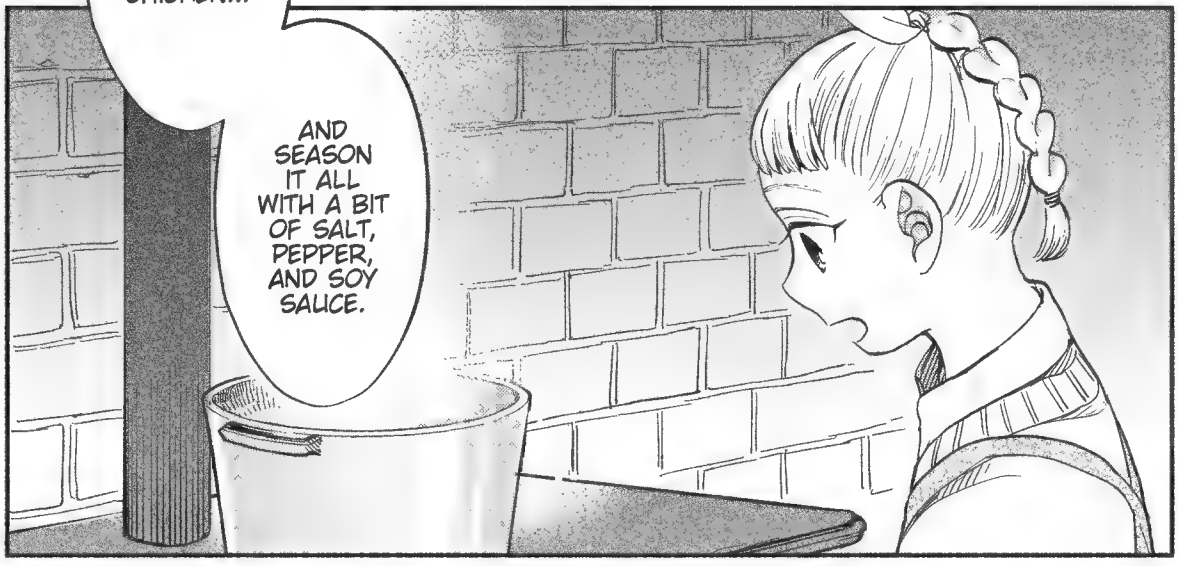
OOH! I REALLY AM STARTING TO FEEL WARMER.
Ah...

HUNH.
THEY MAKE GOOD COLD PREVEN-TATIVES.
WHAT'S MORE, GINGER AND HONEY ARE BOTH NATURAL ANTI-BIOTICS.

How does that work?
MMM... NOW THAT I'M WARMER, I'M HUNGRY.
NAGI... MAKE ME SOMETHING YUMMY AND GOOD FOR ME, TOO...
UM... IS SOMETHING SIMPLE OKAY?
WHAT, IS NAGI YOUR MOTHER NOW?
.....

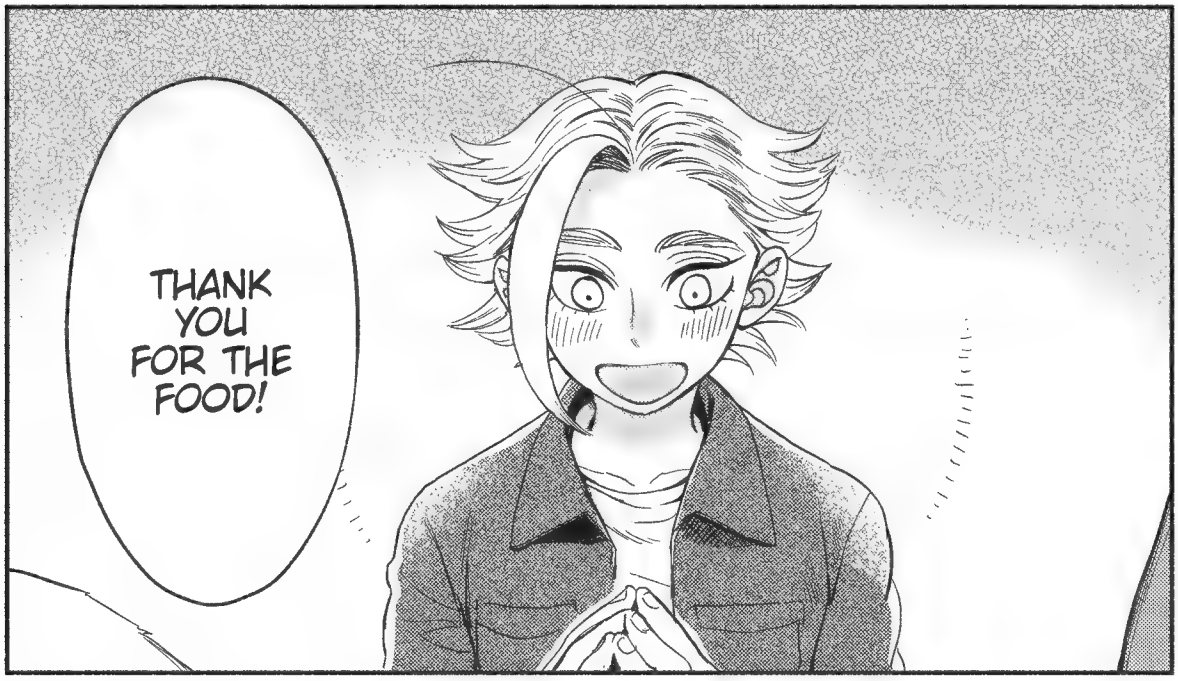



WE'LL START BY WARMING SOME CHICKEN STOCK.
OOH! CHICKEN!
Oh, hush.

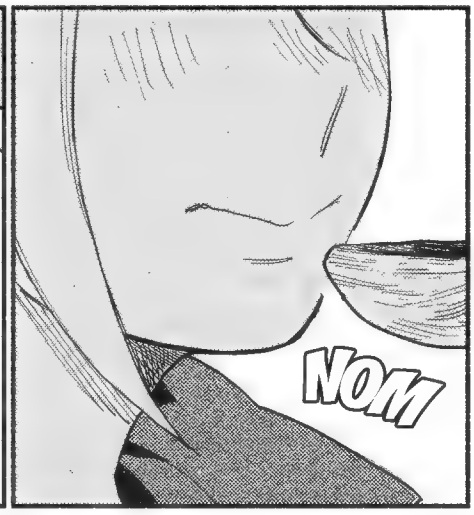

THEN WE'LL ADD SOME SHREDDED CHICKEN...
AND SEASON IT ALL WITH A BIT OF SALT, PEPPER, AND SOY SAUCE.

ONCE IT'S REACHED A ROLLING BOIL, WE'LL ADD SOME UNCOOKED RICE.
DROOL...
After washing the rice to get all the sticky starch off.
BUBL
BUBL
BUBL
BUBL
LET IT BOIL UNTIL IT THICKENS UP AND THE RICE GETS NICE AND TENDER.
THEN WE'LL SLOWLY STIR IN A BEATEN EGG.
FOR THE FINISHING TOUCH, WE'LL GARNISH IT WITH A FEW PARSLEY SPRIGS.

CHICKEN AND RICE PORRIDGE


THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD!

CHOMP
MMMM!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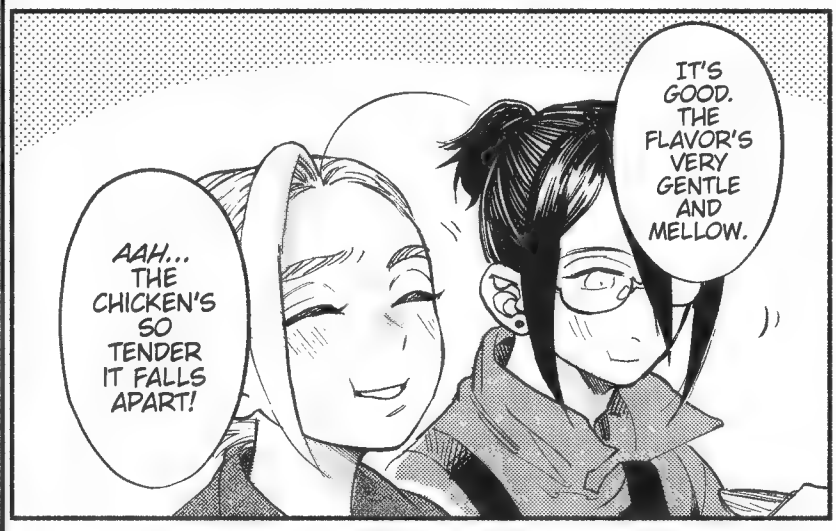
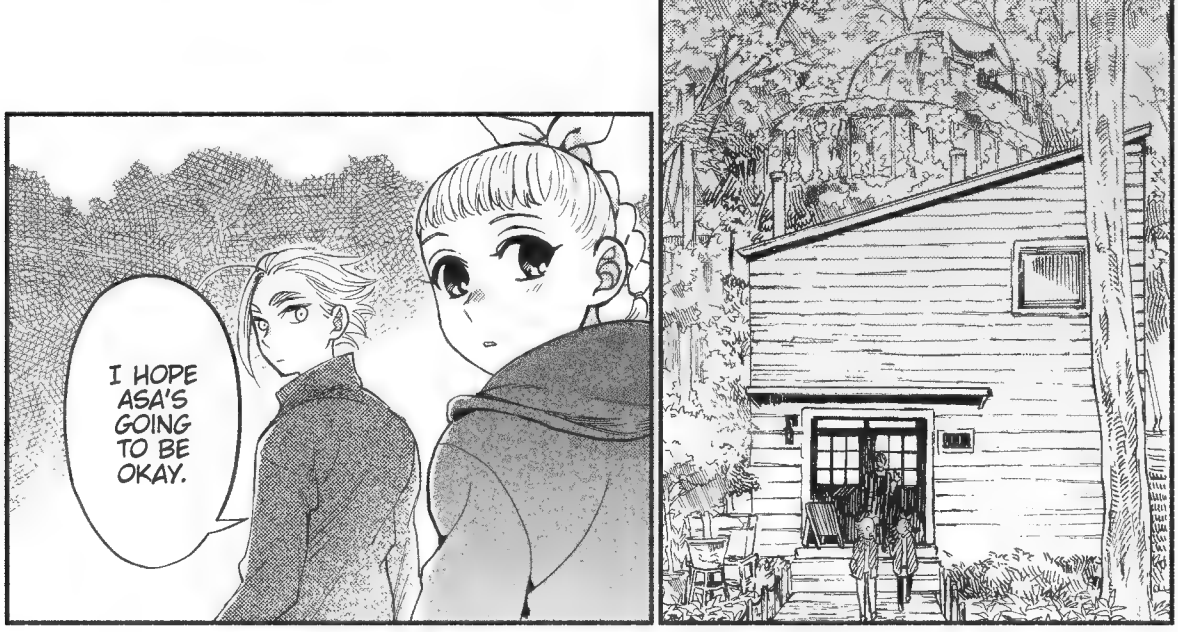

IT'S GOOD. THE FLAVOR'S VERY GENTLE AND MELLOW.
AAH... THE CHICKEN'S SO TENDER IT FALLS APART!

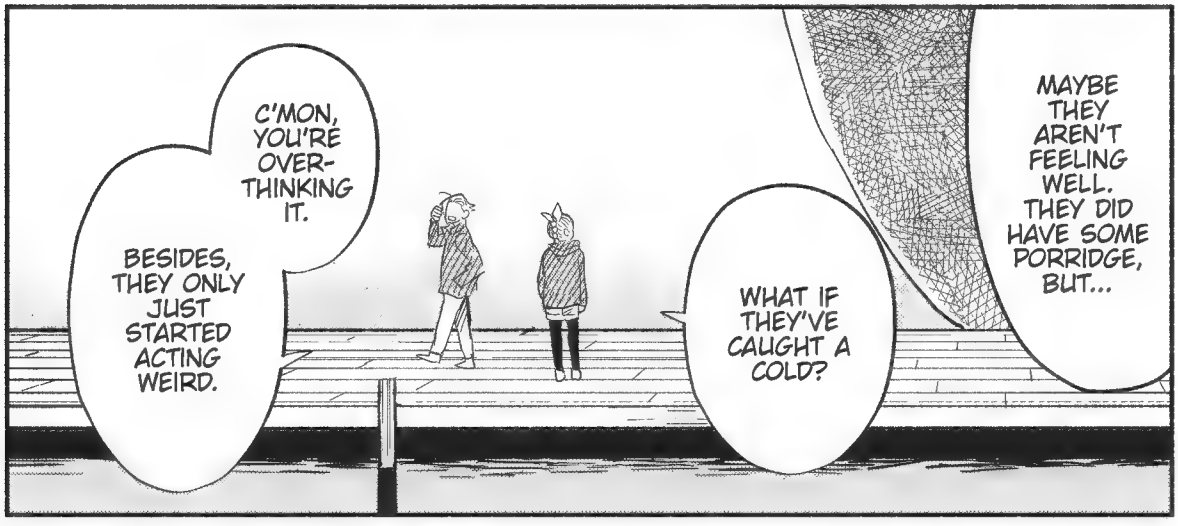
OKAY! NOW THAT I'M WARM AND FED...

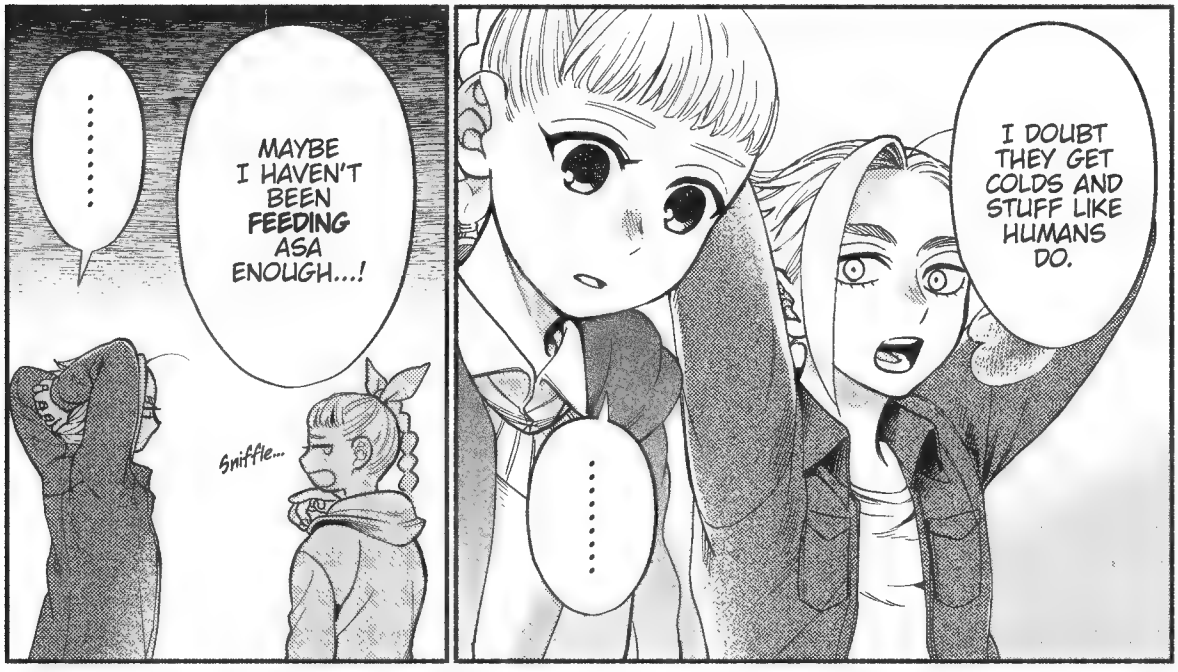
IT'S TIME TO GO FIND CHRISTMAS DECORA-TIONS!
COME ON, ASA!
YOU CERTAINLY PERKED UP QUICKLY.
"PERKED UP"?! I'M ON FIRE!
HMPH!

ASA...?
WHAT'S UP?
ASA'S ACTING KINDA STRANGE...
OH, REALLY ...?
SULKING? WHY?
'CAUSE YOU'VE BEEN GIVING ME ALL KINDS OF ATTENTION!
I BETCHA THEY'RE SULKING.

TURRN
ASA, I WASN'T IGNORING YOU!
HUH?! I-I DIDN'T MEAN TO...!
TURN
ASA...?
HMPH!
ASA!
GLOOOOP
I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON ASA WHILE YOU'RE GONE.
I have to be here minding the cafe anyhow.
WHY DON'T YOU TWO GO OUT AND GET DECORATIONS?
THEY'RE PROBABLY JUST IN A BAD MOOD.
Asa hates me now...
Why...?


I HOPE ASA'S GOING TO BE OKAY.


MAYBE THEY AREN'T FEELING WELL. THEY DID HAVE SOME PORRIDGE, BUT...
WHAT IF THEY'VE CAUGHT A COLD?
C'MON, YOU'RE OVER-THINKING IT.
BESIDES, THEY ONLY JUST STARTED ACTING WEIRD.

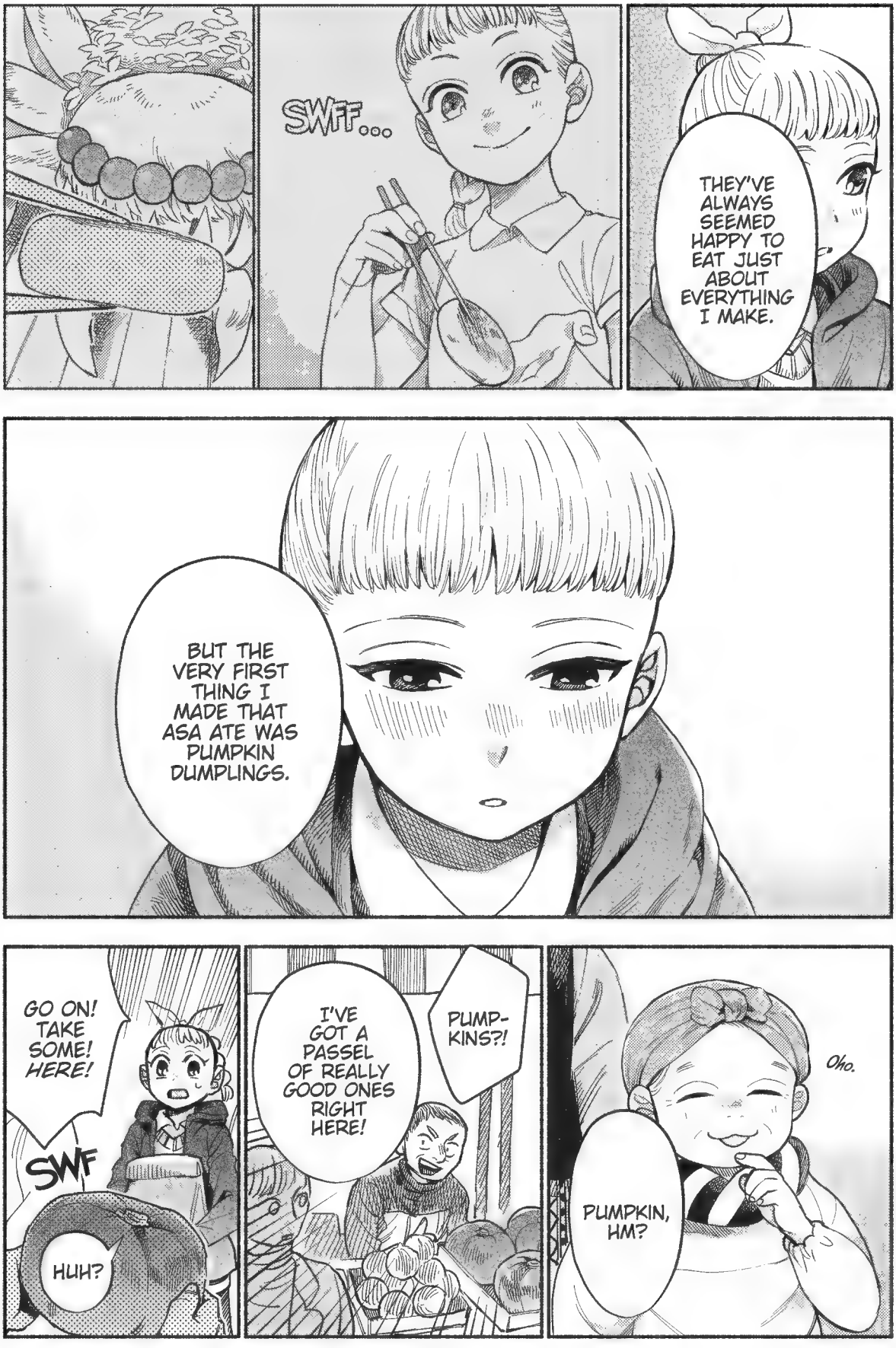

I DOUBT THEY GET COLDS AND STUFF LIKE HUMANS DO.
.....
MAYBE I HAVEN'T BEEN **FEEDING** ASA ENOUGH...!
.....
Sniffle...

SERIOUSLY, I THINK THEY'LL BE TOTALLY FINE.
BUT IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED, WE CAN JUST ZIP OUT AND GRAB SOME STUFF AND HEAD RIGHT BACK.
ふむこ
OKAY.

Stone Fired
NAGI-CHAN! HELLO!

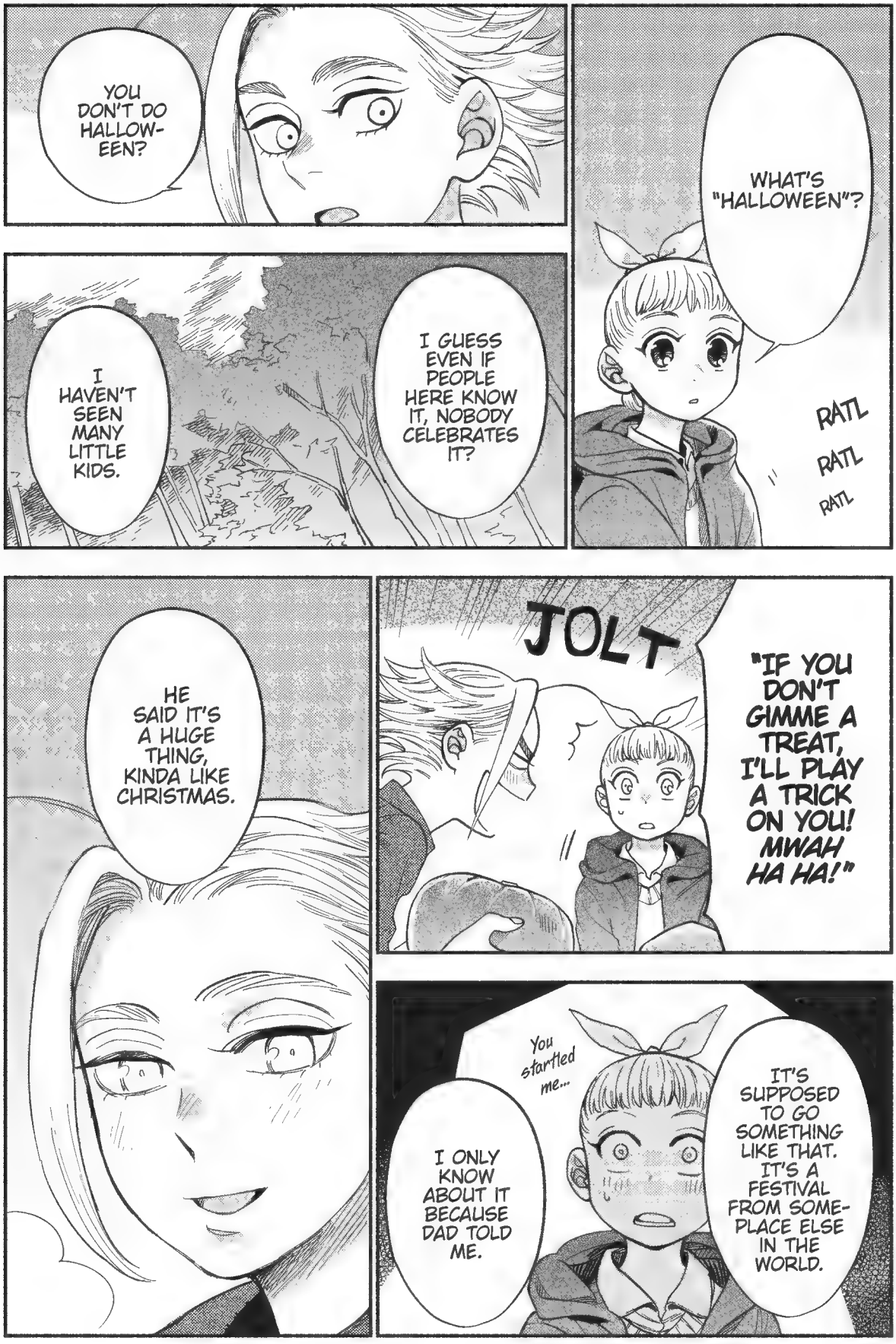
GODOT-SAN!
ELDER!
WELL, NOW, THIS IS UN-USUAL.
ASA DIDN'T ACCOMPANY YOU TODAY?
N-NO, UM... ASA DIDN'T REALLY FEEL LIKE IT.
Heh heh!
WHAT, DID YOU TWO HAVE AN ARGUMENT?
OH DEAR.
I wasn't expecting to be right.
GODOT ...
NOT AN ARGUMENT, REALLY.
ASA JUST... SUDDENLY STARTED ACTING WEIRD.

DEAR ME. WELL, THAT WON'T DO.
REMEMBER, IT'S YOUR COOKING THAT POWERS ASA'S GIANT FLUFFY SELF.
IF THEY'RE FEELING CRANKY, PERHAPS A WARM, TASTY MEAL WOULD BE JUST THE THING.
DON'T YOU THINK?
NOD
FAVORITES ...?
HEY.
DOES ASA HAVE ANY EXTRA-FAVORITE FOODS?


SWFF...
THEY'VE ALWAYS SEEMED HAPPY TO EAT JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING I MAKE.
BUT THE VERY FIRST THING I MADE THAT ASA ATE WAS PUMPKIN DUMPLINGS.
GO ON! TAKE SOME! HERE!
SWF
HUH?
I'VE GOT A PASSEL OF REALLY GOOD ONES RIGHT HERE!
PUMP-KINS?!
Oho.
PUMPKIN, HM?

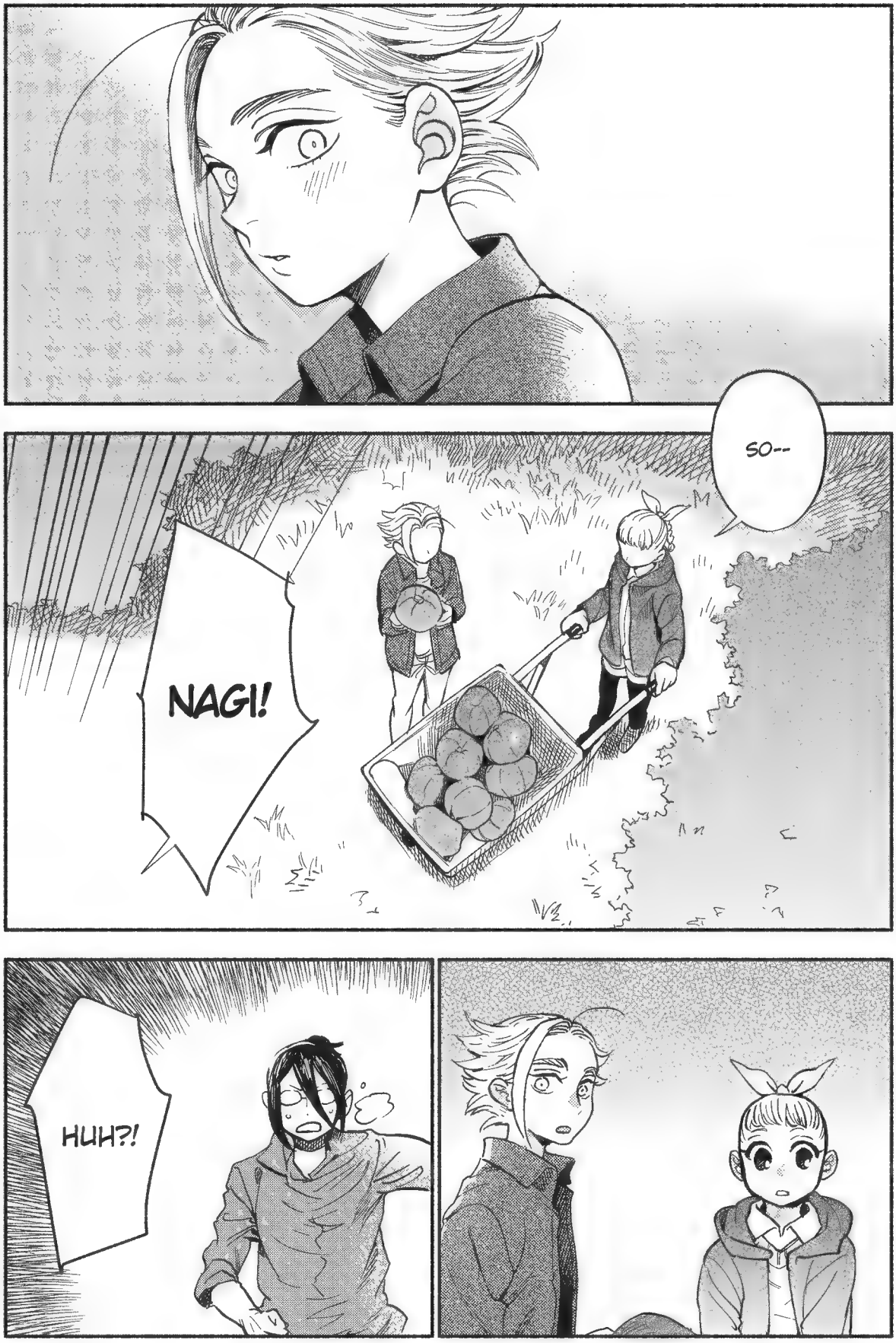
ガラガラ
ガラガラ
ガラガラ
ガラガラ

WE NEVER COULD'VE CARRIED ALL THESE.
THANK GOODNESS HE LET US BORROW HIS WHEEL-BARROW.
Aha ha...
RATL RATL
THAT'S A WHOLE PATCH WORTH!
RATL RATL
Oof! Heavy.
WELL, SINCE WE'VE GOT 'EM, WHY NOT MAKE A FEW INTO HALLOWEEN JACK-O-LANTERNS OR SOME-THING?
HOLLOW THEM OUT AND PUT CANDLES IN, Y'KNOW?
I KNOW IT'S WAY PAST HALLOWEEN, BUT...


YOU DON'T DO HALLOW-EEN?
WHAT'S "HALLOWEEN"?
RATL
RATL
RATL
I GUESS EVEN IF PEOPLE HERE KNOW IT, NOBODY CELEBRATES IT?
I HAVEN'T SEEN MANY LITTLE KIDS.
JOLT
"IF YOU DON'T GIMME A TREAT, I'LL PLAY A TRICK ON YOU! MWAH HA HA!"
HE SAID IT'S A HUGE THING, KINDA LIKE CHRISTMAS.
You startled me...
IT'S SUPPOSED TO GO SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IT'S A FESTIVAL FROM SOME-PLACE ELSE IN THE WORLD.
I ONLY KNOW ABOUT IT BECAUSE DAD TOLD ME.

HOW D'YOU FOLKS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?
CHRIST-MAS...
WE ALWAYS... MADE A GIANT FEAST.
LOADS OF GOOD FOOD AND DESSERTS.

THIS YEAR...
I'M EXTRA EXCITED FOR CHRISTMAS, 'CAUSE I GET TO CELEBRATE IT WITH YOU AND ASA AND EVERYONE.

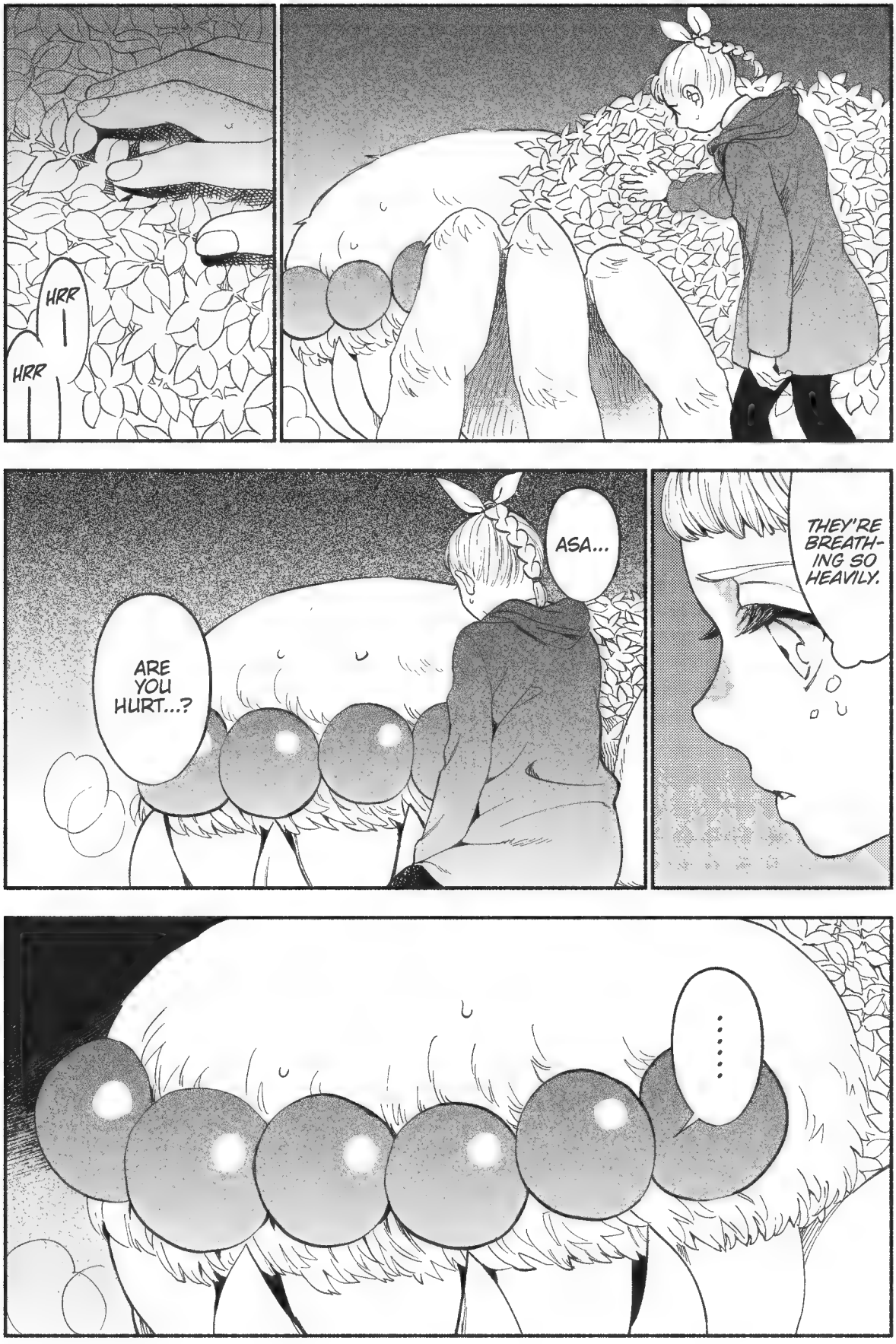

SO--
NAGI!
HUH?!

THANK GOODNESS YOU WERE ALREADY HEADING BACK!
H-HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?! YOU'RE ALL OUT OF BREATH.
HUFF!
HUFF!
.....
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN...?

NAGI, I'M SORRY, BUT...
THERE'S *DEFINITELY* SOMETHING WRONG WITH ASA.

Chapter 13: Asa's Changes & Pumpkin Flan

"THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING WRONG WITH ASA."
BWAM
ASA!
"THEY WENT AND HUDDLED IN A CORNER."
"THEY'RE NOT MOVING."
"THEY SEEM TO BE IN PAIN."


HRR
HRR
ASA...
ARE YOU HURT...?
THEY'RE BREATH-ING SO HEAVILY.
.....

HEY, NAGI--!
トン
BUMP
AH!
ASA, LOOK.

SEE? PUMPKINS!
WE BROUGHT A HEAP OF THEM HOME WITH US.
ASA...
HRR
HRR
DO YOU REMEMBER PUMPKINS? THEY WERE THE FIRST FOOD YOU ATE WITH ME.

Hmmm...
I'VE NEVER EXAMINED AN ANIMAL SO LARGE BEFORE...
LET ALONE ONE LIKE THIS.

I HONESTLY CAN'T SAY.

YO.

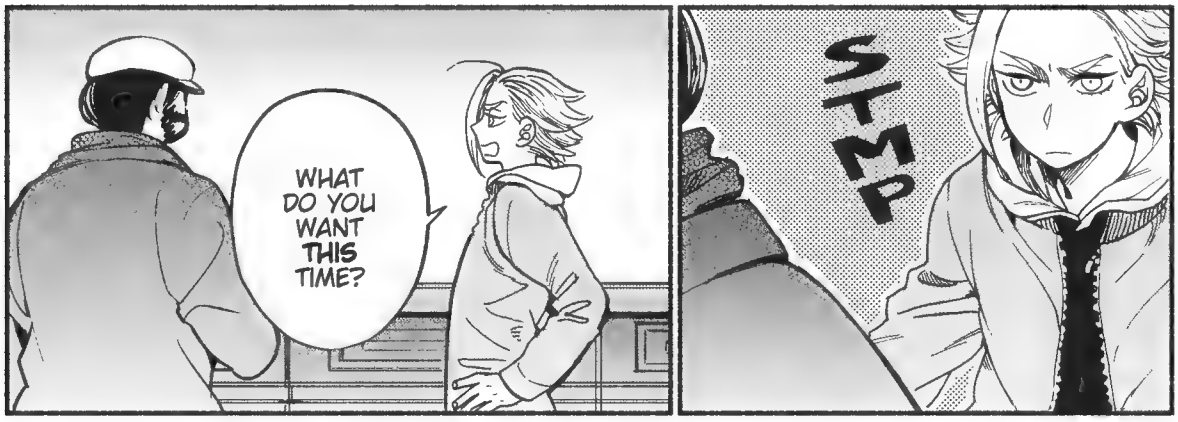
STILL, COULD YOU GIVE 'EM A ONCE-OVER? PLEASE?
YEAH. THEY EAT THE SAME THINGS AS HUMANS.
THEY CAN'T BE THAT DIFFERENT FROM US.
ER... THAT'S NOT REALLY HOW IT WORKS...

NAGI STAYED HERE ALL NIGHT AND WATCHED OVER ASA...
BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG OR WHAT CAUSED IT.
WE'RE NOT SURE.
YOU'RE HERE ...?
I HEARD FROM GODOT.
HOW'S IT DOING?
THE CAUSE?
BAH. THE THING PROBABLY JUST ATE SOME-THING THAT DISAGREES WITH IT.
SIGH...
WE DON'T HAVE THE FIRST CLUE.
I'D LOVE TO SAY YOU'RE WRONG, BUT... I CAN'T.
.....
Sorry.

BOW
AH...
TOTTER
Whoa...!
SLUMP
HEY, NOW!
Oof...
SORRY.
NAGI, YOU'VE GOTTA SIT AND REST A BIT.
NO, IT'S OKAY. I'M FINE.
THAT'S A PRETTY SKETCHY DEFINITION OF "FINE."

IF YOU CAN'T EVEN MANAGE TO FAKE BEING CHEER-FUL...
YOU MIGHT AS WELL SAVE YOUR ENERGY, KID.

OLEG-SAN...


WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS TIME?
STMP

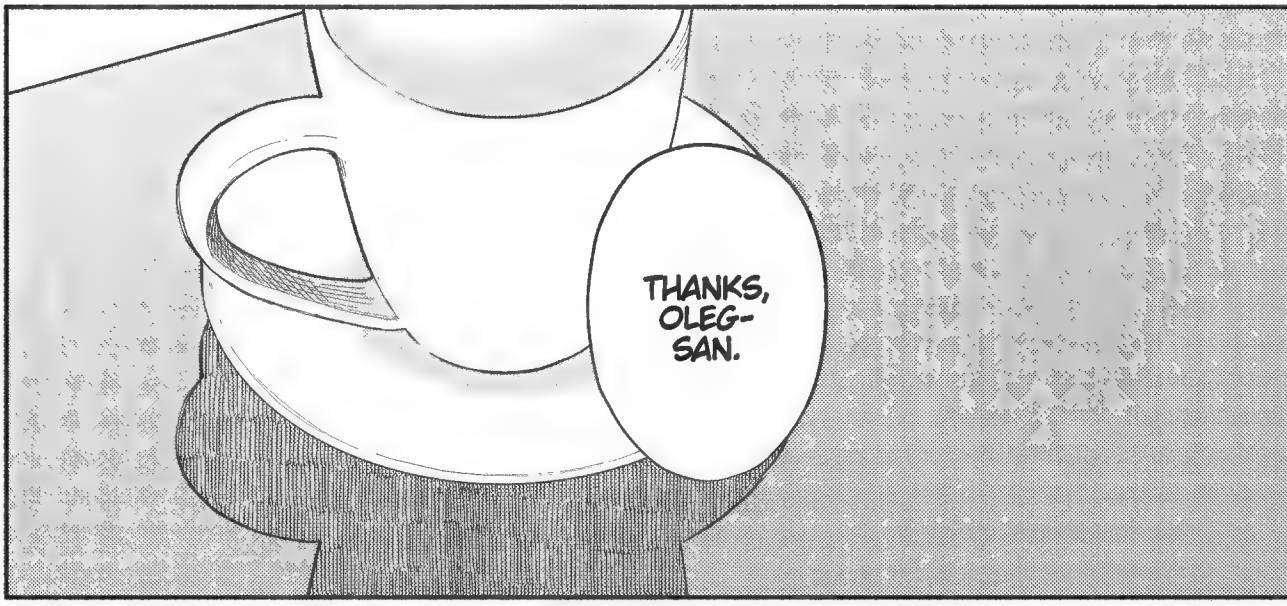
HUH?!
ARE YOU THAT RUDE...
TO ALL YOUR CUSTOMERS AT THIS PLACE?
ONE BLACK COFFEE.
HERE YOU GO.
SIP...

GLANCE
OH...
YES, I-I WAS THINKING OF COMING UP WITH A PUMPKIN-THEMED MENU...
THAT'S A LOT OF PUMPKINS.
THAT WAS THE IDEA AT FIRST, BUT...
DIDN'T YOU GO GET THEM FOR ASA-- YOUR CRITTER?

.....
THEY DON'T SEEM VERY INTEREST-ED RIGHT NOW.
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T BE THE ONE SAYING THIS, BUT...
CHIN UP, ALL RIGHT?

DON'T YOU THINK BEING YOUR **NORMAL SELF** WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD MAKING YOUR CRITTER FEEL BETTER?

.....


THANKS, OLEG-SAN.

THIS REALLY ISN'T HELPING, HUH?

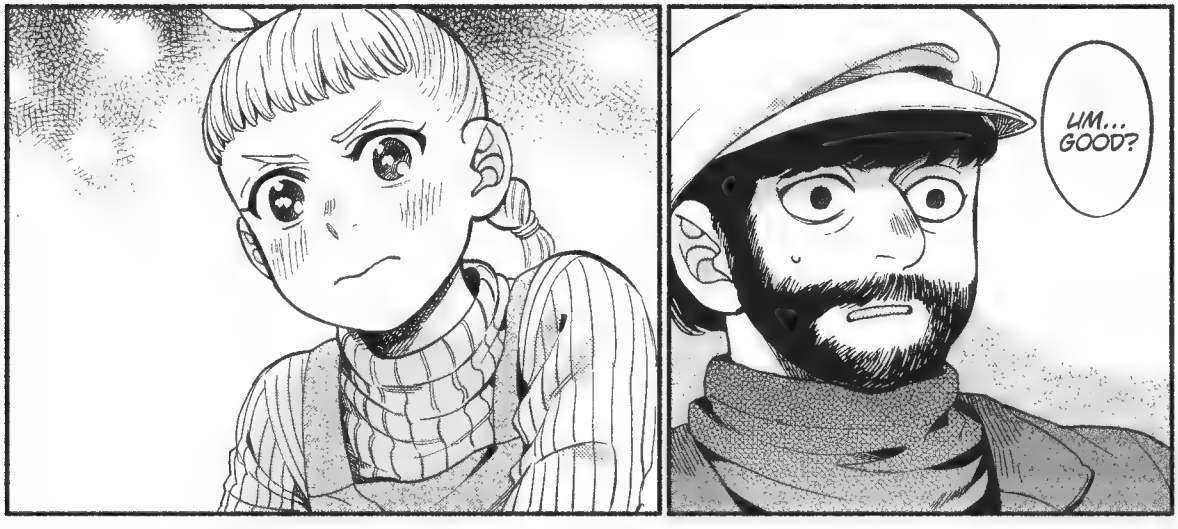
I'M TRYING NOT TO...
BUT I CAN'T HELP BEING SCARED.

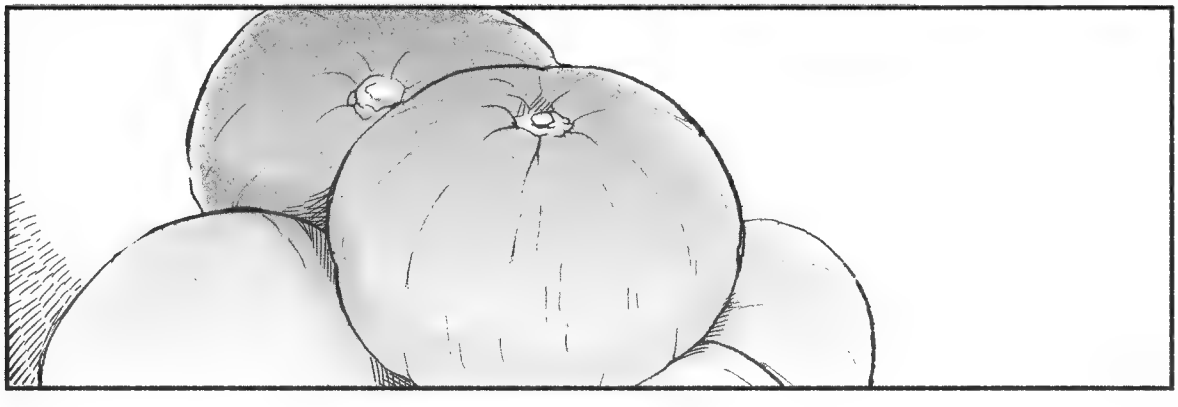
SMACK
FLINCH

IT'S TERRIFY-ING.
I'M SO SCARED THAT EVERYONE I LOVE WILL JUST... LEAVE ME BEHIND.
AGAIN.
WELL, SURE.
IF SOME-THING'S SCARY, IT'S SCARY.
AND IF IT'S SOMEONE OR SOME-THING SO IMPORTANT TO YOU...
THAT YOU CAN'T COPE WITH LOSING THEM, THAT ONLY MAKES IT WORSE.

SO IN THAT CASE...
DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO. IF YOU'RE SCARED, DO WHATEVER YOU CAN NOW SO YOU DON'T REGRET ANYTHING LATER.
I... I'LL COOK.
Hmph.
MIND YOU, THAT CRITTER ...
DOESN'T STRIKE ME AS THE SORT TO FADE AWAY AND DIE EASILY.

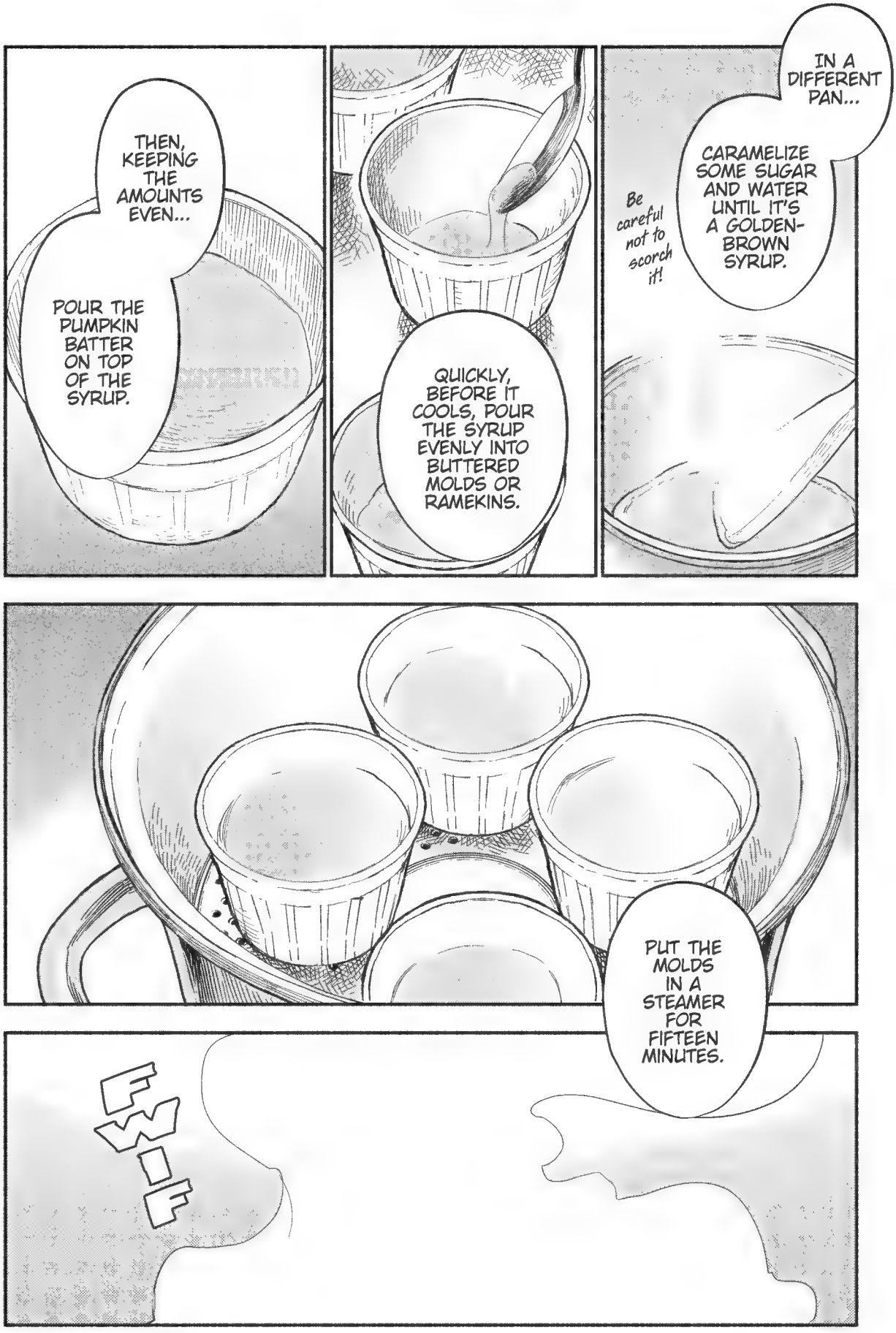
THAT WAY I WON'T REGRET ANY-THING!
I'LL MAKE TASTY FOOD FOR ASA EVERY DAY SO THAT...
WHENEVER THEY DO GET HUNGRY, THERE'LL BE SOMETHING YUMMY TO EAT!


UM... GOOD?



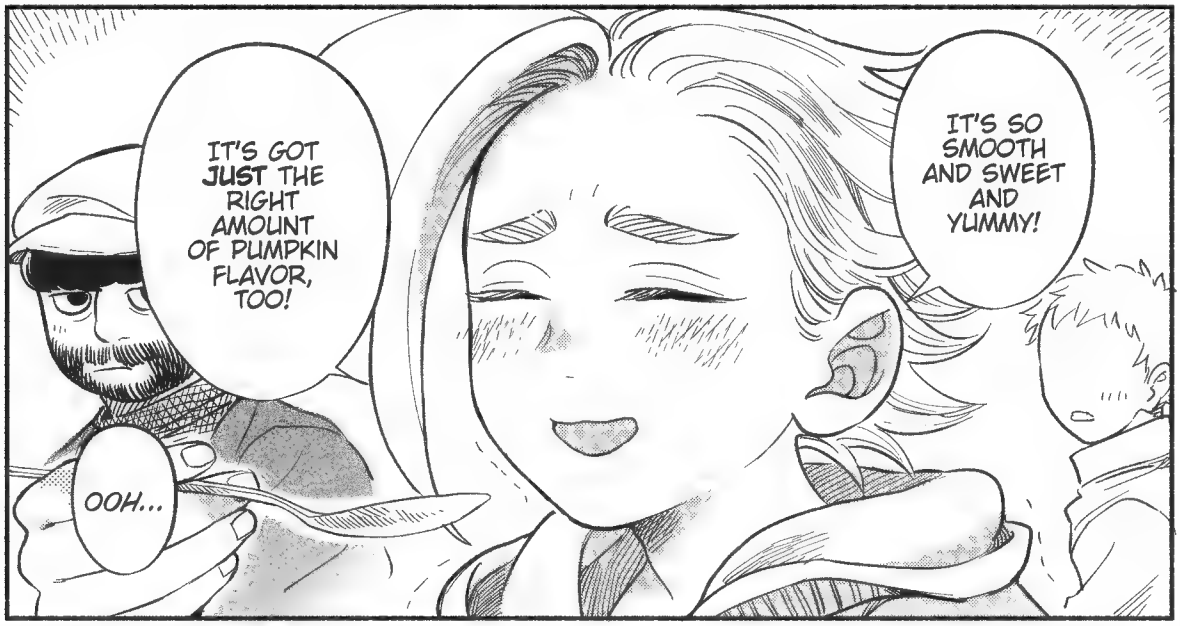
HMM... WHAT KINDS OF THINGS CAN ASA EAT WHILE THEY'RE SO LISTLESS...?
FIRST, I'LL CUT THE PUMPKIN IN HALF, PEEL IT, AND REMOVE THE SEEDS.
THEN I'LL CHOP IT INTO BITE-SIZED PIECES...
CHOK
PUT THEM IN A POT OR A STEAM-ER...
AND STEAM THEM UNTIL THEY'RE COOKED THROUGH.

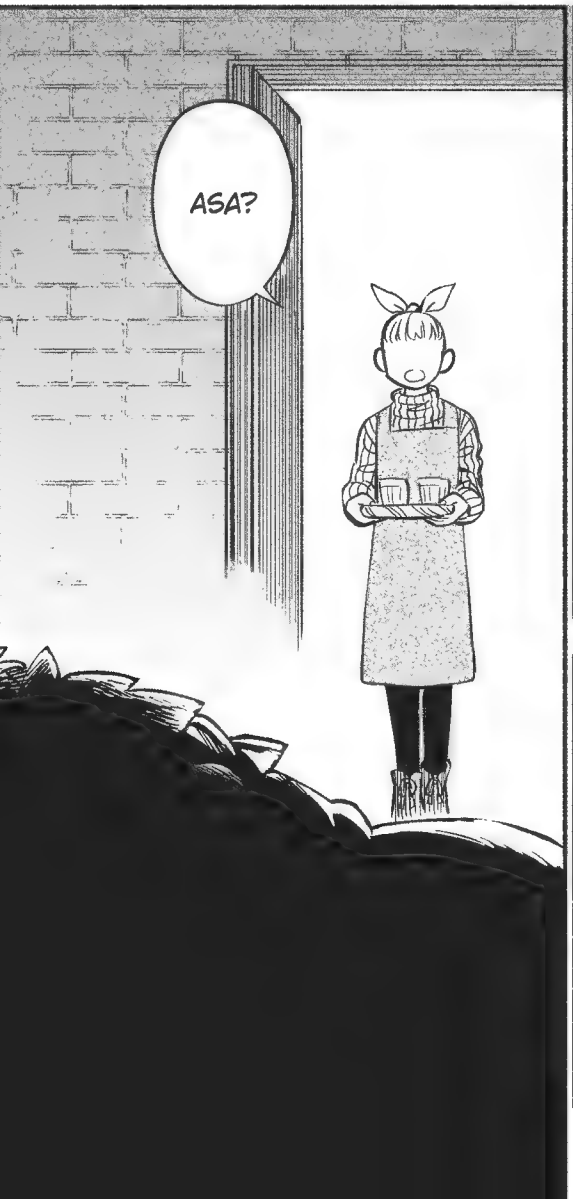
STRAIN THEM TO MAKE A SMOOTH PASTE.
ONCE THE CHUNKS ARE NICE AND TENDER...
POKE
TAKE IT OFF THE HEAT RIGHT AWAY, LET IT COOL JUST A LITTLE, THEN POUR IN SOME BEATEN EGGS.
STIR IN THE PUMPKIN PASTE, THEN PUT THE WHOLE THING THROUGH A STRAINER AGAIN.
NEXT...
PUT MILK AND SUGAR IN A SAUCEPAN AND SLOWLY BRING IT TO A GENTLE SIMMER.
BUBL
BUBL

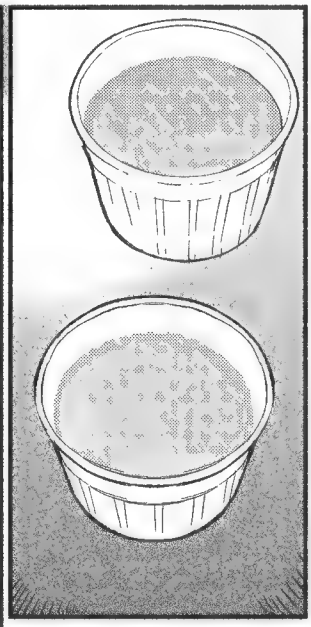

IN A DIFFERENT PAN...
CARAMELIZE SOME SUGAR AND WATER UNTIL IT'S A GOLDEN-BROWN SYRUP.
Be careful not to scorch it!
QUICKLY, BEFORE IT COOLS, POUR THE SYRUP EVENLY INTO BUTTERED MOLDS OR RAMEKINS.
THEN, KEEPING THE AMOUNTS EVEN...
POUR THE PUMPKIN BATTER ON TOP OF THE SYRUP.
PUT THE MOLDS IN A STEAMER FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES.
FWIF

PUMPKIN FLAN

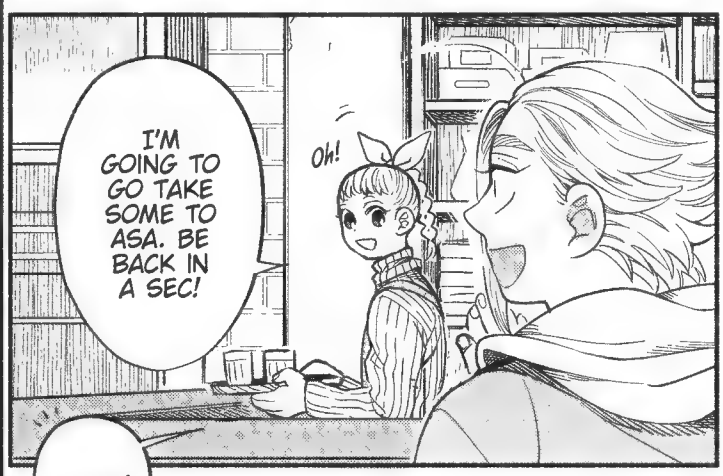
CAN I HAVE ONE? PLEASE?
Nagi! Nagi!
SURE.
THEY'VE GOT A LOVELY COLOR!
THEY'RE SO PRETTY --!
MMMM!


IT'S GOT JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF PUMPKIN FLAVOR, TOO!
IT'S SO SMOOTH AND SWEET AND YUMMY!
OOH...


ASA?

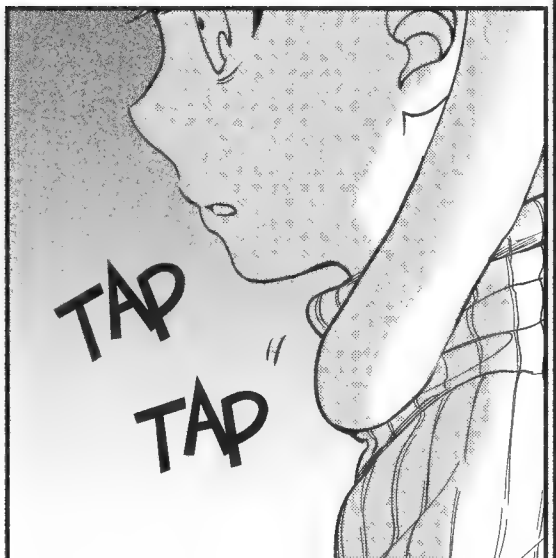


NAGI-CHAN, CAN I HAVE ONE, TOO?
AND ME?


I'M GOING TO GO TAKE SOME TO ASA. BE BACK IN A SEC!
Oh!
OKAY!

WH...
DMP
DMP
WHAT IS IT?! WHAT'S WRONG ?!
AAAAAAAAAHHHHH!!
?!
ASA...
ASA IS...!

WHA...?
WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED?!


TAP
TAP

?!

HUH?
UM?
What?

KYAAAAAAAH?!
ASA!
HUG
ASA...
THUMP
ニノュタ
HUH?!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING UP THERE ...?!
WAIT ...
THEN WHAT'S THIS THING...?

IT LOOKS LIKE ASA SHED THEIR SKIN.
SHED IT...?
I SEEM TO RECALL THAT SPIDERS SHED--OR MOLT, MORE ACCURATELY--AS THEY GROW.
SEEING AS ASA IS VERY SIMILAR TO A SPIDER, IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT THEY DO, TOO.
AND MAYBE IT'S JUST ME, BUT I THINK THEY DO LOOK A LITTLE FLUFFIER AND SHINIER NOW.
GLEAM GLEAM

ASA'S GROW-ING...?
HA HA!
OKAY!

THAT'S ALL IT WAS!
YOU'VE GOTTEN BIGGER, ASA!
I SEE!
DO YOU WANT SOME PUMPKIN FLAN?
Heh...

IT'S KIND OF NICE TO SEE, HONESTLY.

Giant Spider & Me

A Post-Apocalyptic Tale

Giant Spider & Me

A Post-Apocalyptic Tale

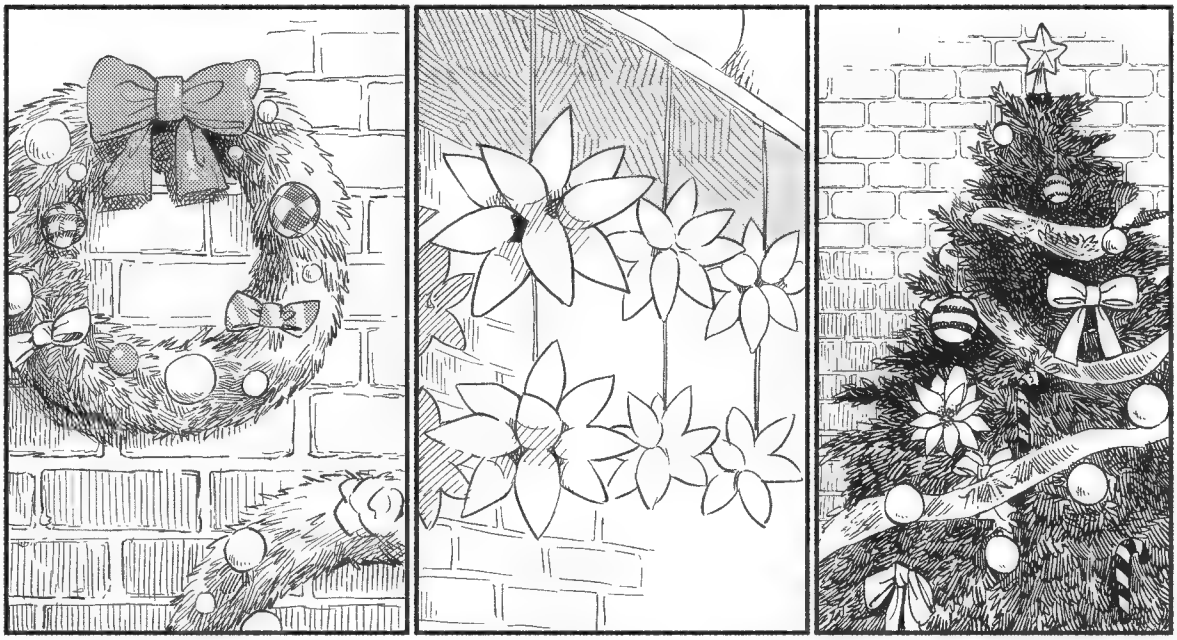
Chapter 14: Happiness & a Bûche de Noël

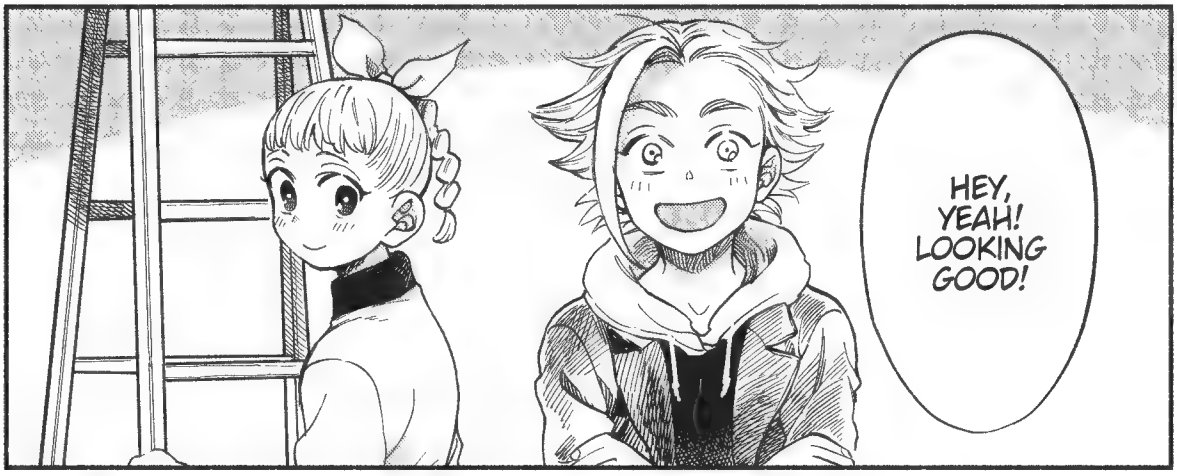
EEEP?!
WOBL
ZWIP

STREEETCH...

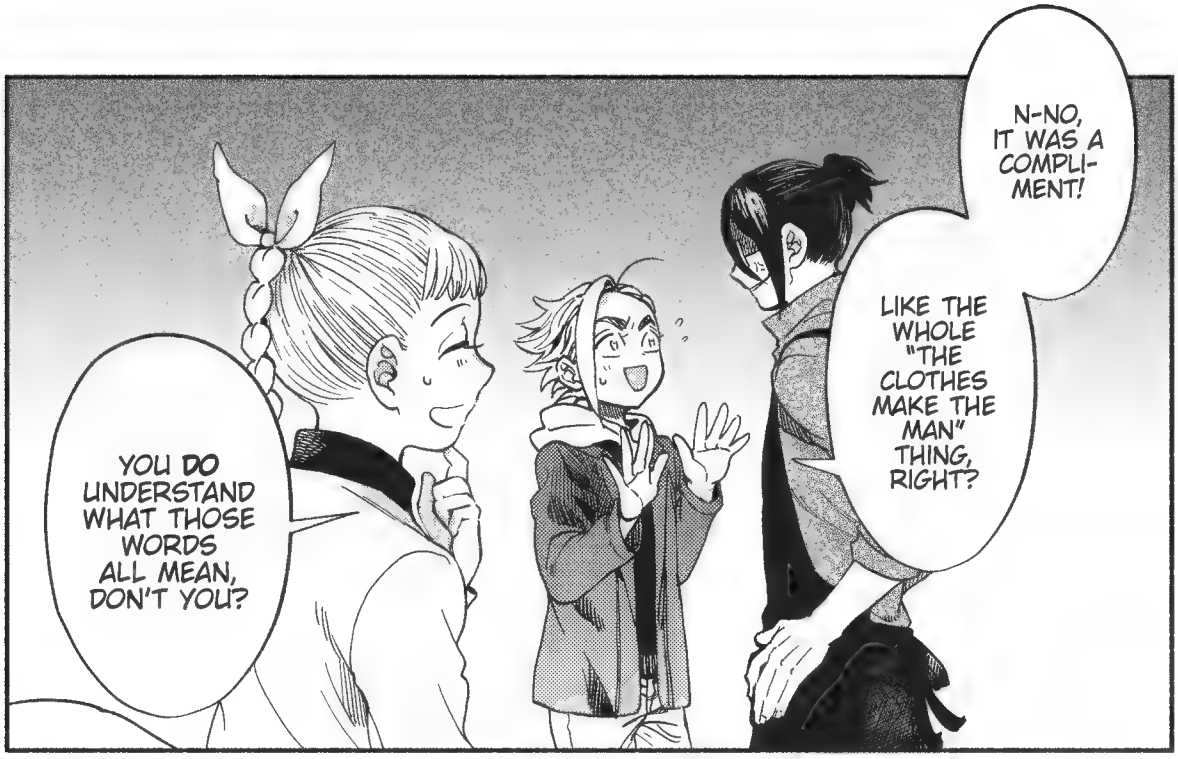
Oh!
THANKS, ASA.

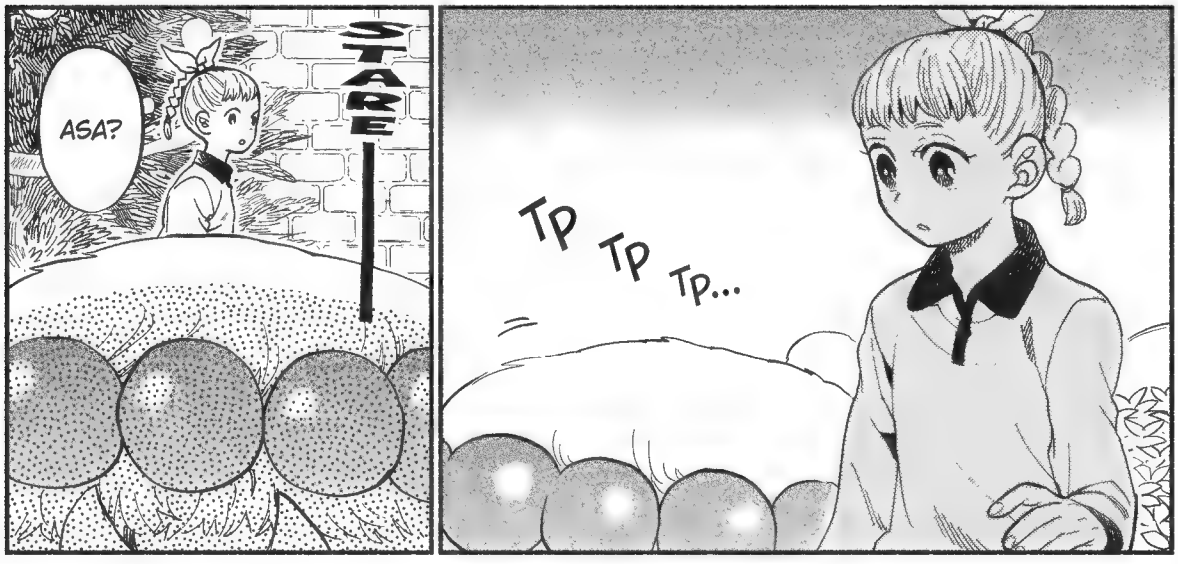
HEY, NAGI?
YOU DONE DECORATING YET?
JEAN
UH-HUH! I JUST FINISHED UP.
Er...
UH, I CAN SEE THAT.

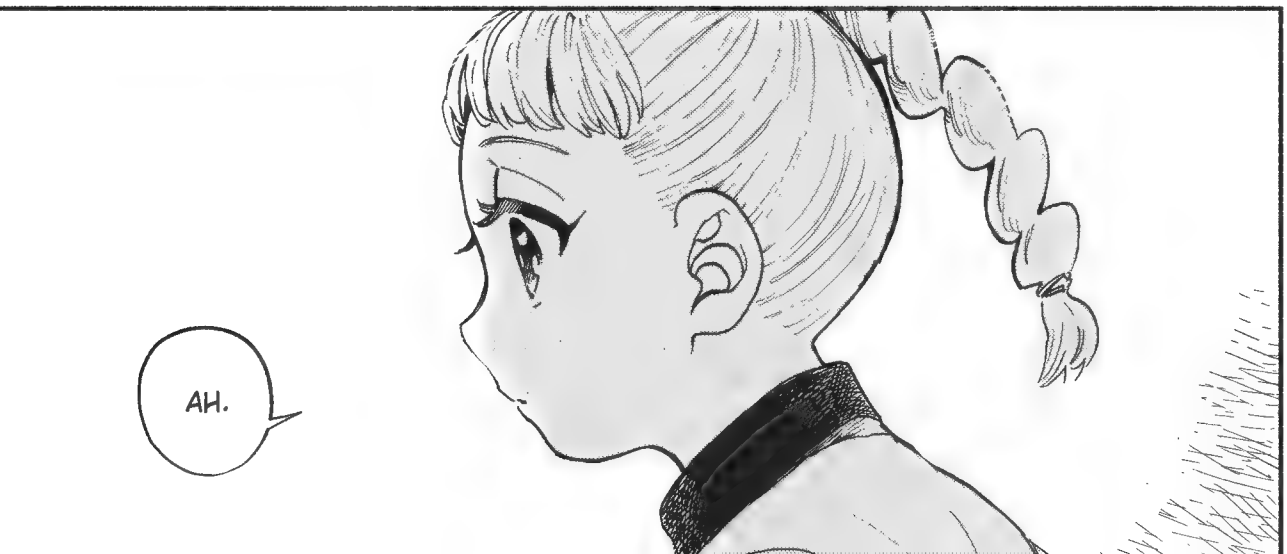



HEY, YEAH! LOOKING GOOD!

WHEN YOU GET IT ALL GUSSIED UP LIKE THIS...
EVEN *THIS* DRAB OL' ROOM LOOKS GREAT!
Oh, really?
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, *HMM*?

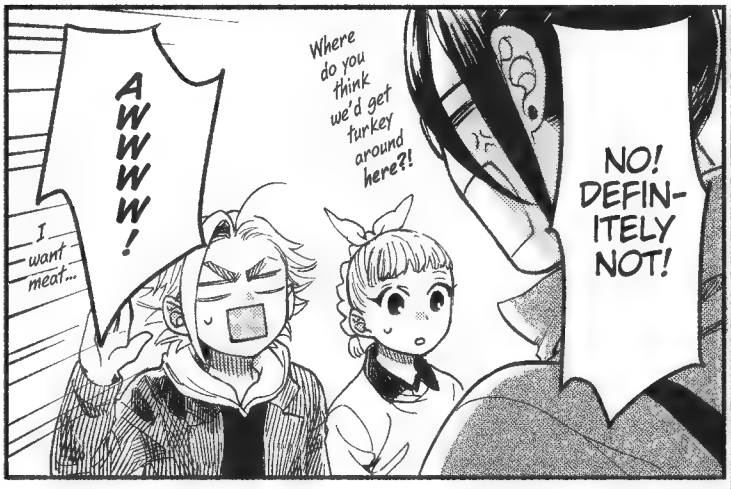

N-NO, IT WAS A COMPLI-MENT!
LIKE THE WHOLE "THE CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN" THING, RIGHT?
YOU DO UNDERSTAND WHAT THOSE WORDS ALL MEAN, DON'T YOU?


ASA?
STARE
TP TP TP...


AH.

OOOH ...!
GUYS, IT'S SNOWING!
OH, CRAP!
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND GET READY. WE'LL HAVE CUSTOMERS SOON.
OKAY!
NOW, THEN.

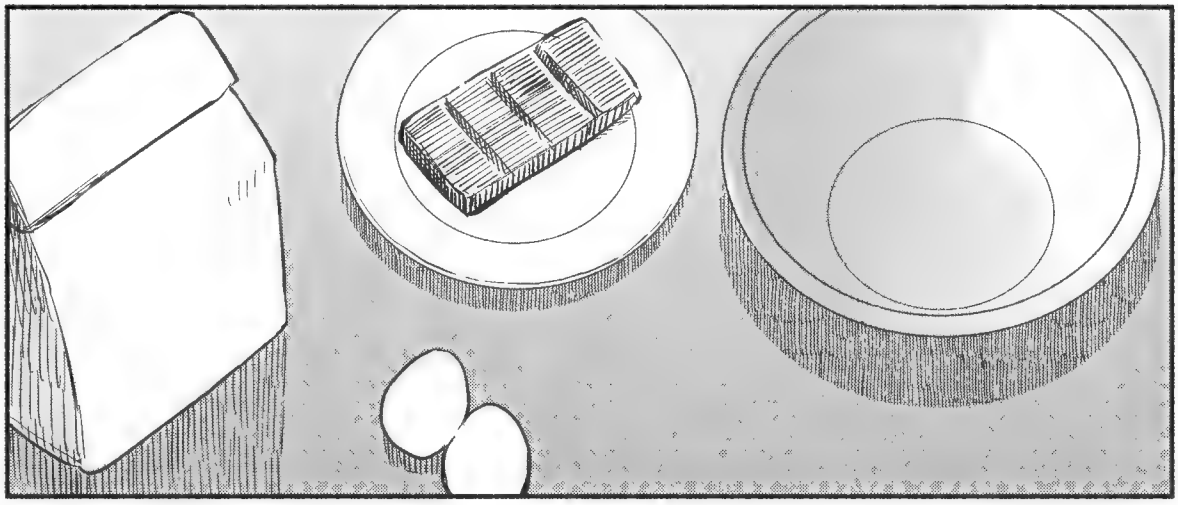
WHAT DO YOU THINK TODAY'S SPECIAL DISH IS GOING TO BE?


AWWW!
I want meat...
Where do you think we'd get turkey around here?!
NO! DEFIN-ITELY NOT!

A WHOLE ROAST TURKEY!
CHR--
Ooh! Ooh! Ooh!
WISH

NAGI?

BINGO!
Um...
IS IT A CHRISTMAS CAKE...?
BUT "CHRISTMAS CAKE" CAN MEAN PRACTICALLY ANYTHING.
PEOPLE MAKE ALL KINDS OF CAKES FOR CHRIST-MAS.
THAT'S TRUE.
WHICH KIND I'M MAKING IS A SURPRISE! SEE IF YOU CAN FIGURE IT OUT.



HOW LONG DO YOU WANT ME TO WHIP THEM?
UNTIL THEY'RE NICE AND WHITE WITH SOFT PEAKS.
Good luck!

WISK
WISK
WISK

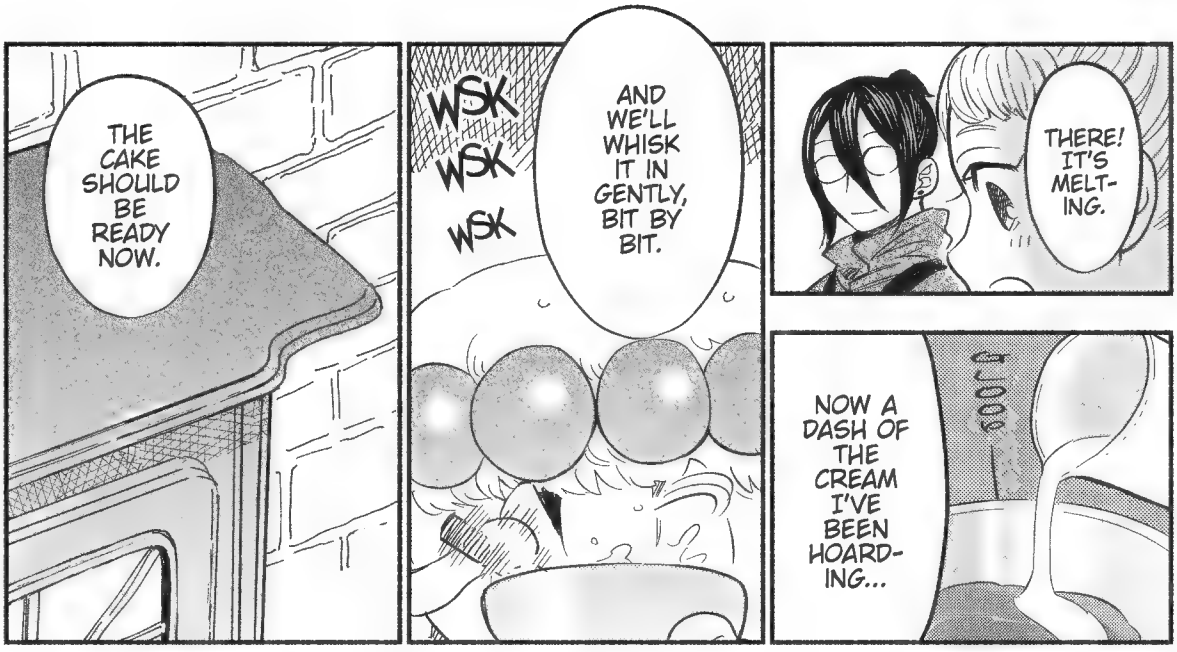
KRAK
WE'LL CRACK EGGS INTO A BOWL AND...
BEAT THEM THOR-OUGHLY.

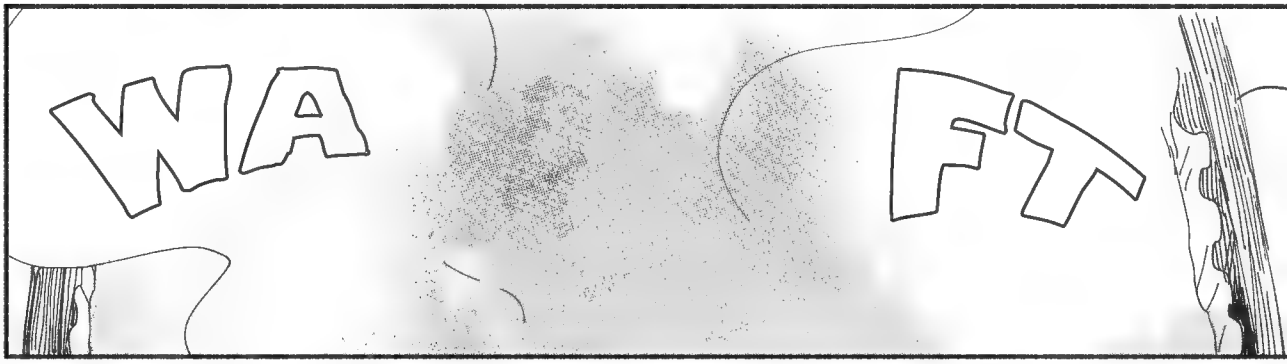
WISK
ADD THE SUGAR AND MIX IT WELL WITH THE EGGS, UNTIL THEY'RE COMPLETELY COMBINED.

DONE!
YO-INK
WISK
WISK
WISK
KEEP GOING UNTIL IT'S ALL TOTALLY BLENDED...
USE THE WHISK TO COMBINE IT ALL, SCOOPING UP THE BATTER AND LETTING IT DRIP FROM THE WIRES.
TAP
TAP
NOW WE'LL SIFT IN THE FLOUR AND COCOA POWDER.
THEN POUR THE BATTER INTO THE PAN.

YES! GOOD EYE.
WOW, THE PAN'S AWFULLY WIDE AND SHALLOW. IS THIS GOING TO BE A SPONGE CAKE?
LET'S SET THIS IN THE OVEN TO BAKE.
NOW...
WHILE IT BAKES, LET'S MAKE THE CREAM FILLING.

No.
PUTTING CHOCOLATE STRAIGHT INTO HOT WATER JUST GIVES YOU REALLY WATERY HOT COCOA.
A HOT WATER BATH?
LIKE, DUNKING THE CHOCO-LATE IN HOT WATER ...?
Bath?
HUH?
MELT THE CHOCOLATE IN A HOT WATER BATH.
TUNK
TO MELT CHOCOLATE, YOU USE TWO BOWLS.
FILL ONE ABOUT HALFWAY WITH HOT WATER, AND STICK THE OTHER BOWL IN ON TOP.
YOU PUT THE CHOCOLATE IN THE TOP BOWL, AND THE HEAT FROM THE WATER UNDER-NEATH MELTS IT!
HUNH!


THE CAKE SHOULD BE READY NOW.
WSK WSK WSK
AND WE'LL WHISK IT IN GENTLY, BIT BY BIT.
THERE! IT'S MELT-ING.
NOW A DASH OF THE CREAM I'VE BEEN HOARD-ING...

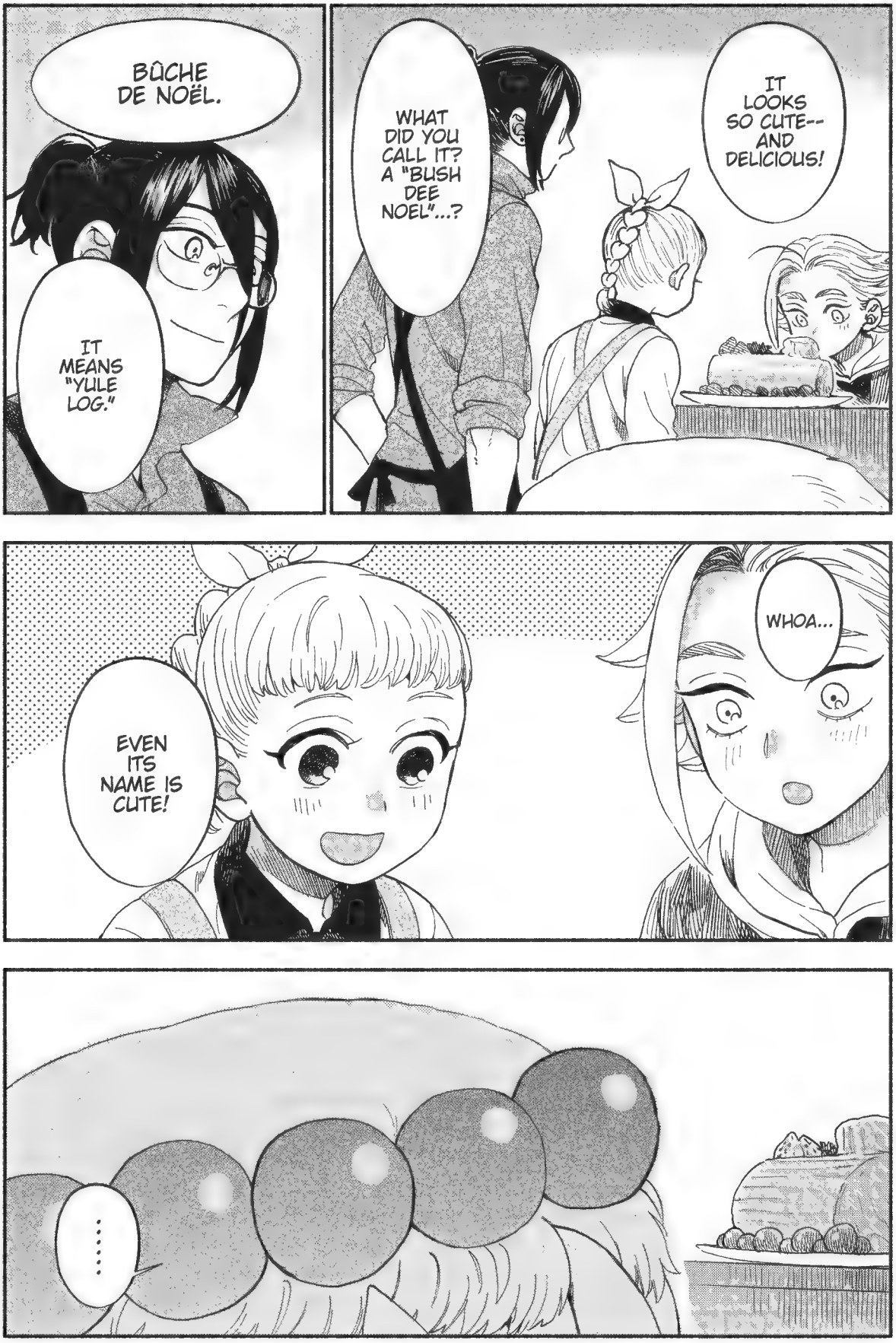

WA
FT

MMM, THE CHOCOLATE SMELLS SO GOOD...!

NEXT, WE SPREAD THE CREAM FILLING IN A THIN, EVEN LAYER OVER THE CAKE'S ENTIRE SURFACE.
THEN WE'LL LINE UP SLICED STRAW-BERRIES ABOUT AN INCH FROM ONE EDGE.
STARTING FROM THAT EDGE...
TWIRL
WE'LL VERY GENTLY ROLL IT UP!
OOH!
A ROLL CAKE!

WE'LL CUT A PIECE OFF ONE END-- ABOUT AN INCH OR TWO LONG.
HOH
SET IT ON TOP OF THE ROLL, WHER-EVER YOU LIKE...
THEN SPREAD THE REST OF THE CREAM FILLING OVER THE WHOLE CAKE.
PWF
ADD SOME DECORATIVE TEXTURE WITH A FORK...
PUT ON SOME FRUIT OR MORE DABS OF FILLING...

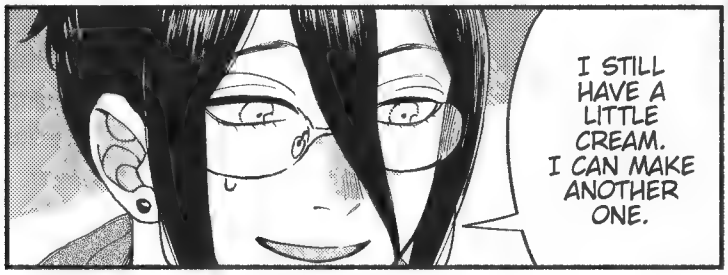
AND OUR BÛCHE DE NOËL IS DONE!
3 eggs
50 grams flour
50 grams sugar
5 grams cocoa powder
60 grams chocolate
200ml cream
1 small pack of strawberries


BÛCHE DE NOËL.
IT MEANS "YULE LOG."
WHAT DID YOU CALL IT? A "BUSH DEE NOEL"...?
IT LOOKS SO CUTE-- AND DELICIOUS!
EVEN ITS NAME IS CUTE!
WHOA...
.....

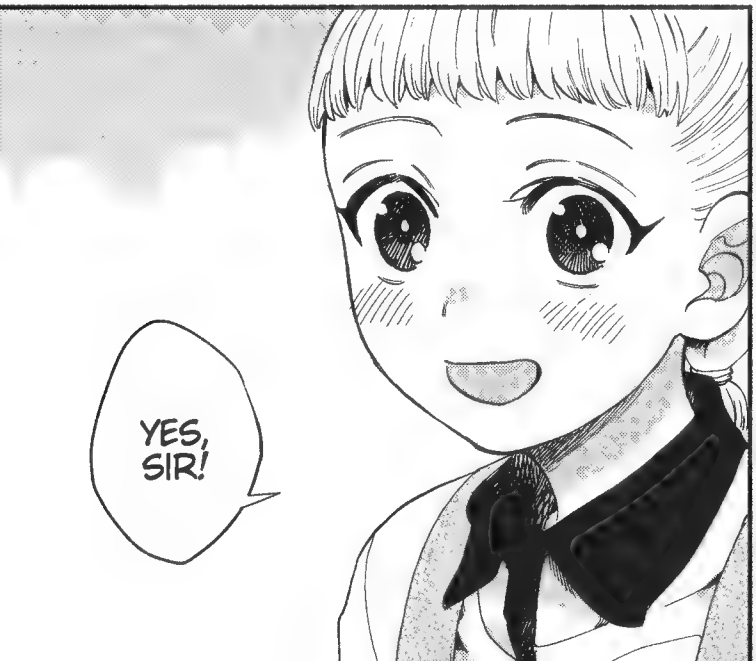
SLORP

I'M SO SORRY! I KNOW YOU WERE PLANNING TO SELL THAT...!
I'll pay for it! I promise!
HA HA... HA... WELL, I GUESS IF THEY WERE HUNGRY, THERE'S NOTHING WE COULD'VE DONE.

ASA--!! NOO-OO!!!
!
FLINCH


I STILL HAVE A LITTLE CREAM. I CAN MAKE ANOTHER ONE.

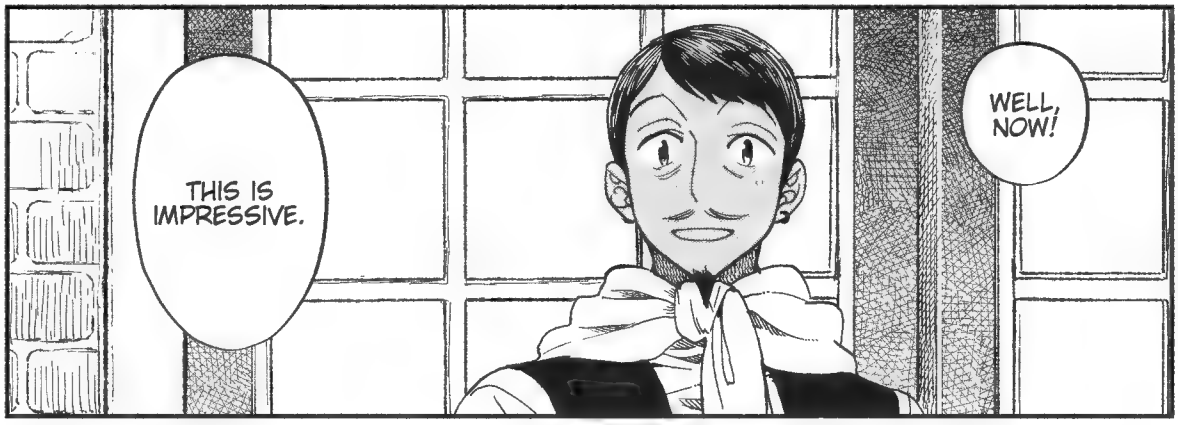
NAGI.
I CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS. COULD YOU GET THINGS READY OUT FRONT, PLEASE?


YES, SIR!

WELCOME!

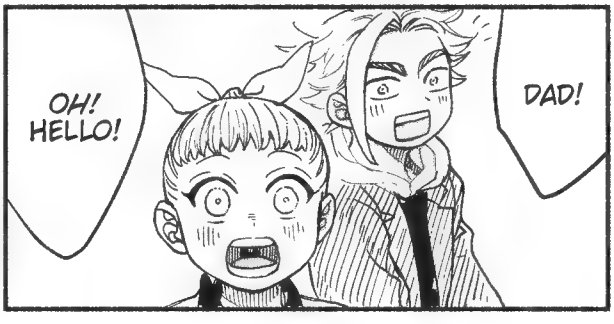
JINGLE カラン

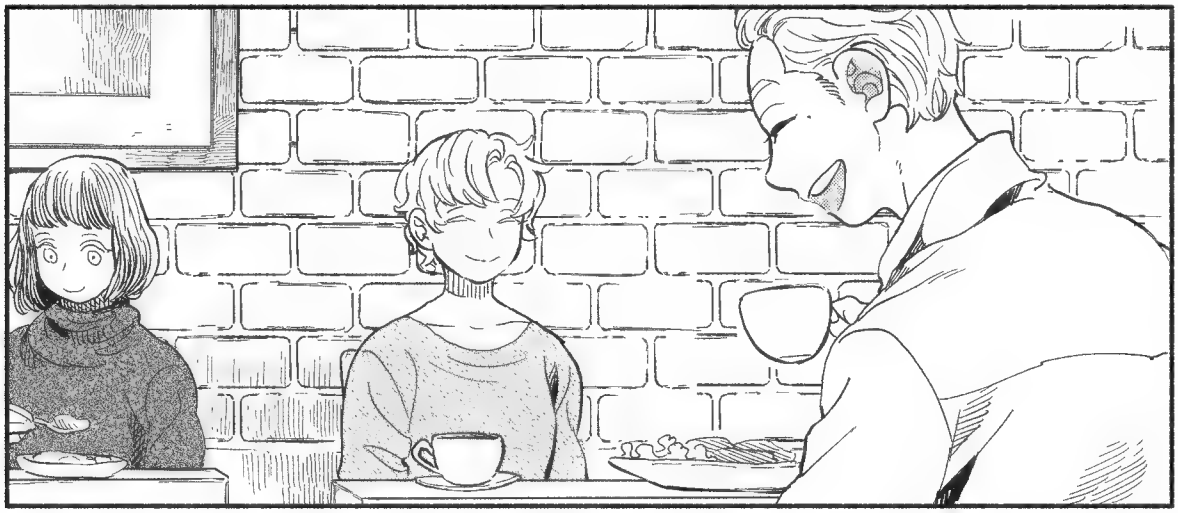
JANGLE カラン


WELL, NOW!
THIS IS IMPRESSIVE.

WE DECORATED THE TOWN MARKET, NATURALLY ...
AND I MUST SAY, YOUR CAFÉ IS JUST AS NICELY DONE.
THANK YOU.

HEY THERE. HOW'VE YOU TWO BEEN?
POIK


DAD!
OH! HELLO!



WOW!
WE HAVE SO MANY CUSTOMERS TODAY.

?
AH... ASA-KUN, NAGI-CHAN?
NOW THAT EVERYONE IS HERE...

Ahem!

POP
POP
POP
POP
HUH?

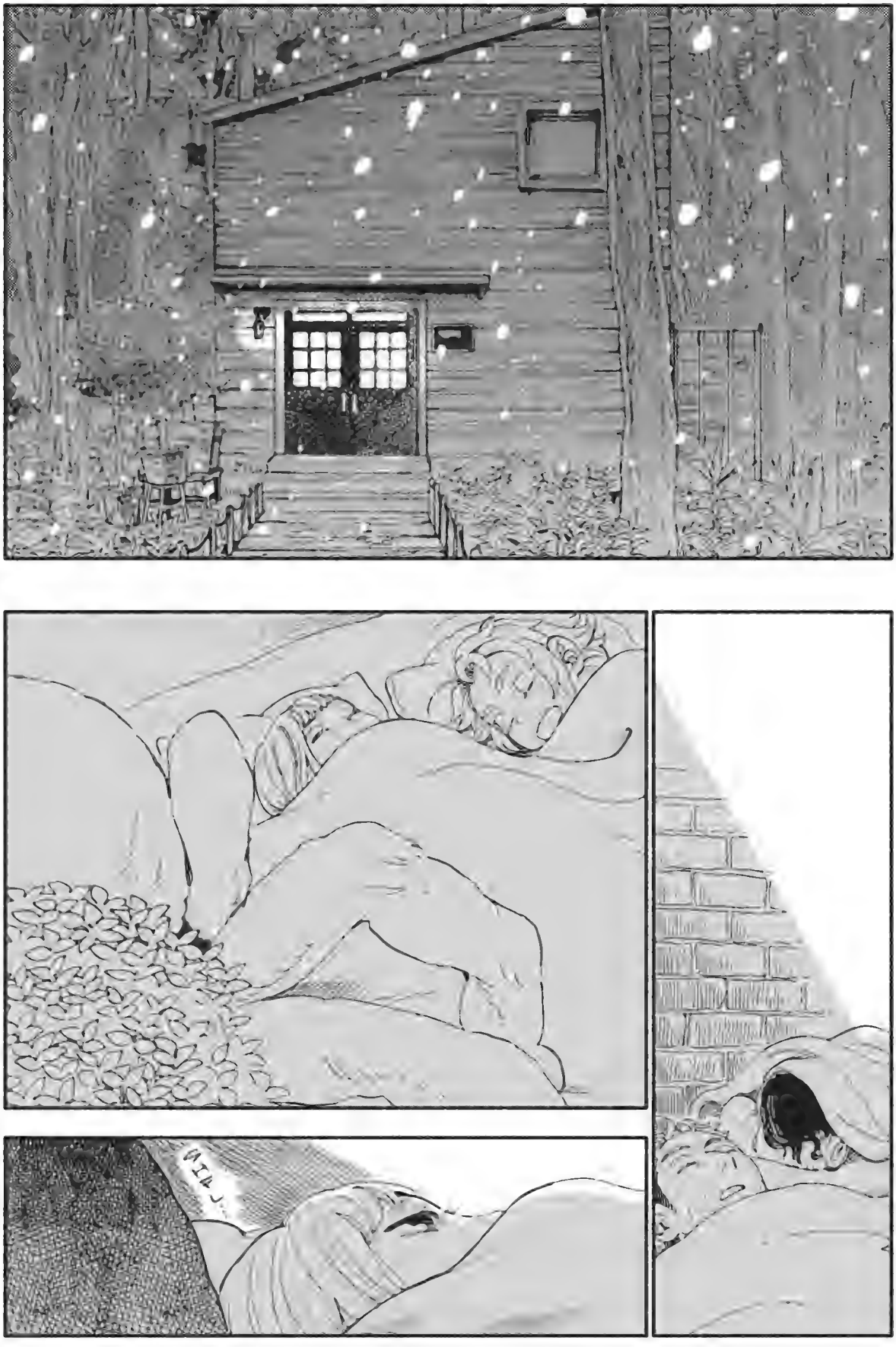
NAGI-CHAN, WE'RE ALL HERE...
TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS TOGETHER, OF COURSE.
BUT WE ALSO WANTED TO HAVE A FORMAL WELCOMING PARTY FOR ASA-KUN.

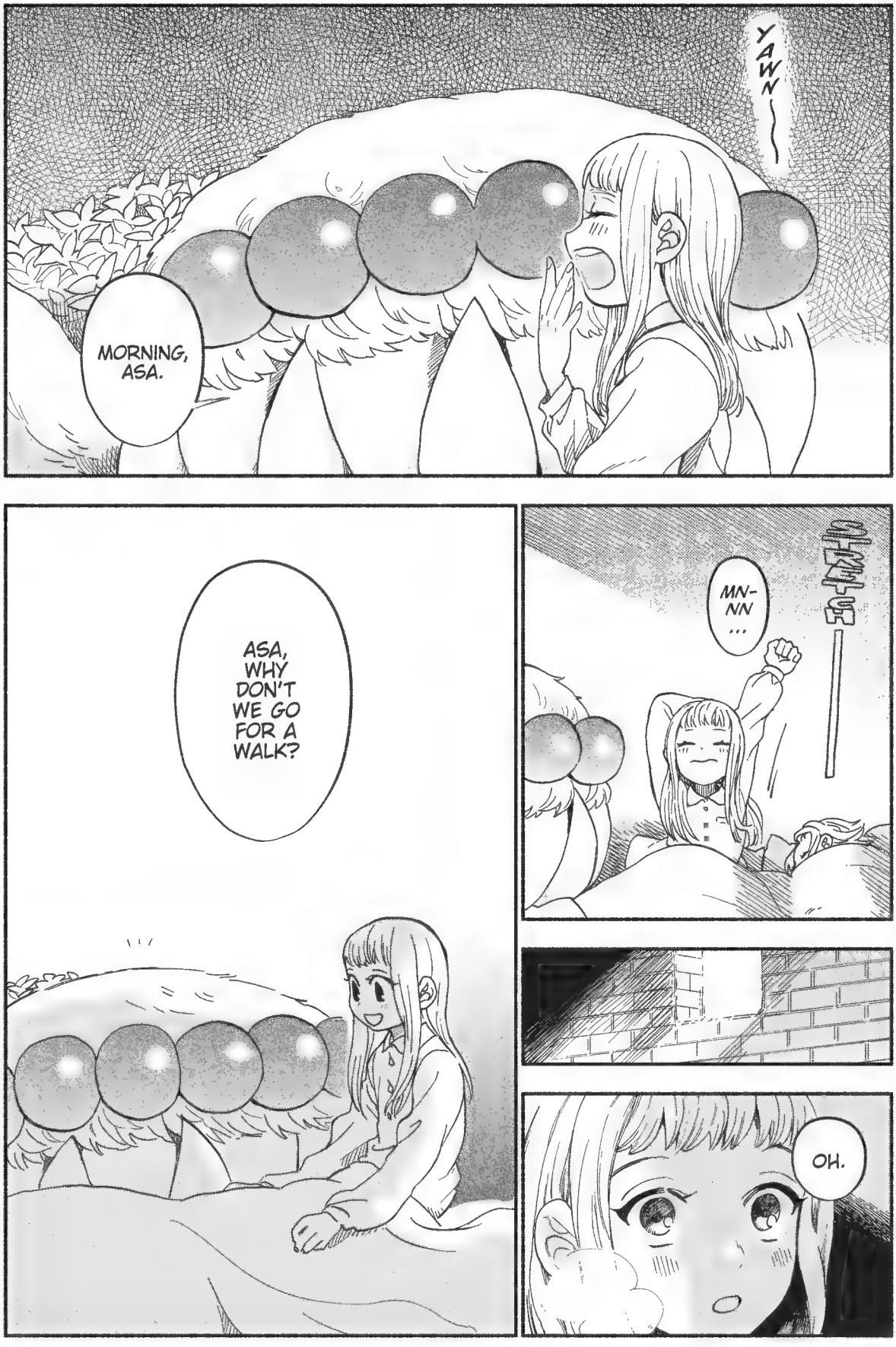
Ha ha...!
WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A LOVELY SURPRISE FOR YOU.
Did we startle you?
UM...
SHF

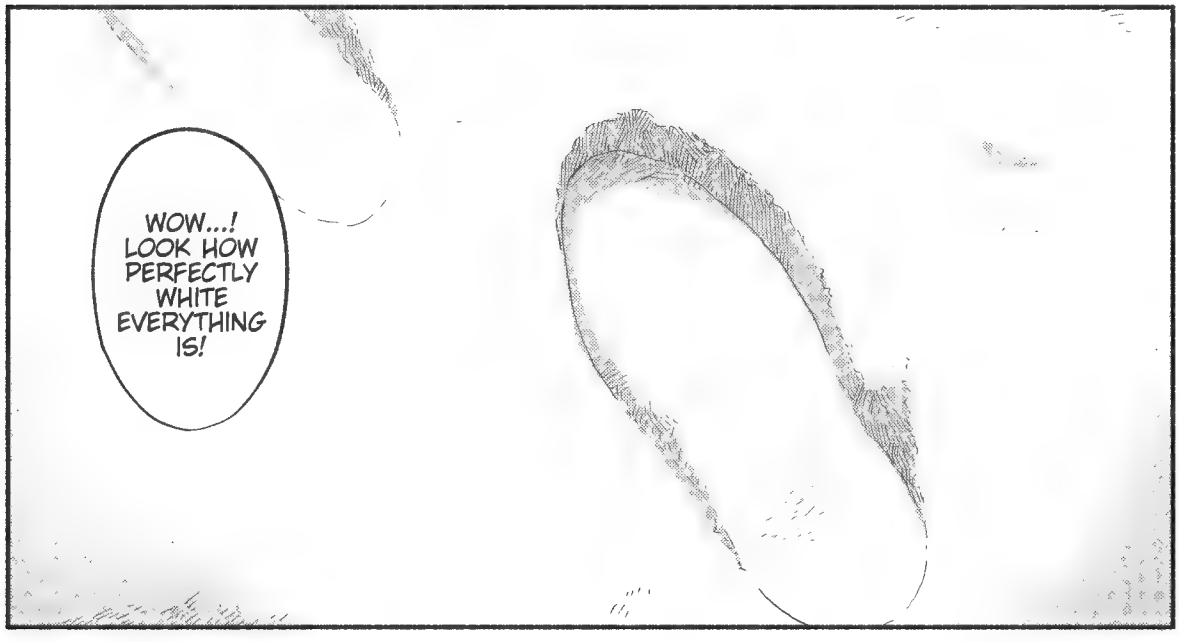
NAGI-CHAN.
ASA-KUN.
WILL YOU BOTH CELEBRATE WITH US?
.....
WE'D LOVE TO!

CHRISTMAS REALLY CAN BE FUN.
CHATTER
CHATTER
HMM?
THIS IS AMAZING.
OH, I... IT'S JUST I DON'T REMEMBER EVER HAVING SUCH A FUN CHRISTMAS BEFORE.

I'LL BET THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER WONDERFUL THINGS YOU'LL GET TO EXPERIENCE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
AND THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.
UM?
LOOK FORWARD TO THEM, OKAY?
PAT




YAWN—
MORNING, ASA.
ASA, WHY DON'T WE GO FOR A WALK?
MN-NN...
OH.


WOW...! LOOK HOW PERFECTLY WHITE EVERYTHING IS!

HEY, ASA?
IT WAS A BRIGHT, SUNNY MORNING LIKE THIS...
WHEN WE FIRST MET, REMEMBER?
BUT...
FOR SOME REASON, I WAS ONLY SCARED FOR A MINUTE.
I WAS...
SO SURPRISED WHEN YOU FIRST CAME OUT OF THE BUSHES.

IT'S STRANGE.
ONCE I MET YOU, I SUDDENLY REALIZED...
HOW COLD AND EMPTY I'D FELT FOR SO LONG. I'D JUST NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
BECAUSE IT SEEMED NORMAL TO ME.
BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.

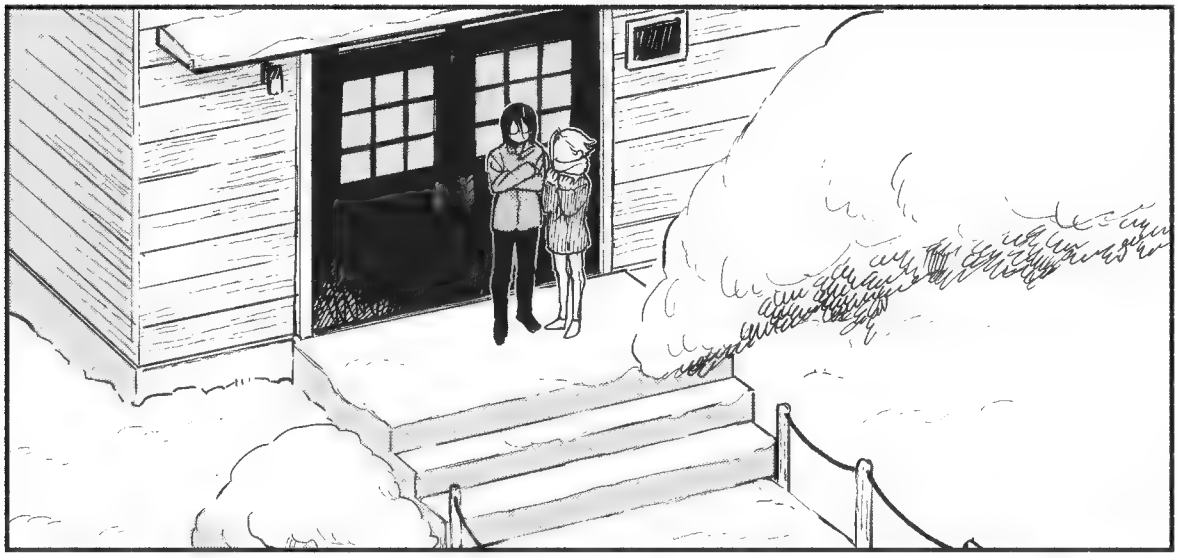
HOW ABOUT YOU, ASA?

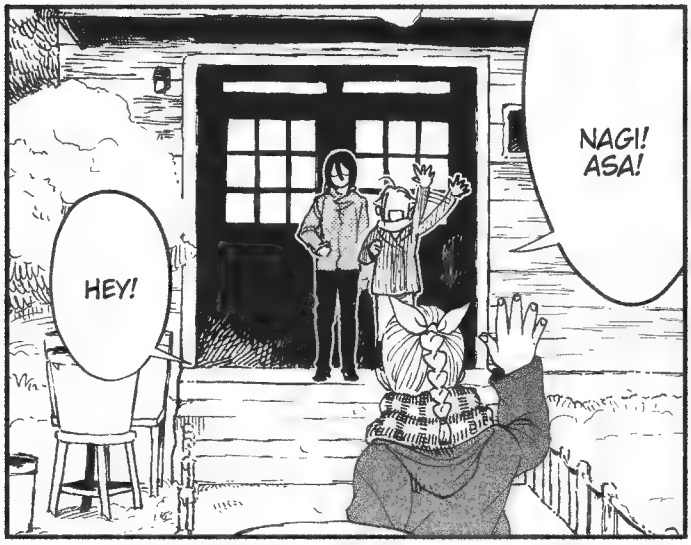
WARM AND CONTENT.

I FEEL SO WARM.

WHEN I'M WITH YOU AND OUR FRIENDS...

GLOMP
ACK!
HA HA HA!
YEAH.
LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE CAFÉ.




NAGI! ASA!
HEY!

AH! HERE THEY COME.

SERIOUSLY, GOING FOR A SUNRISE WALK IN THE SNOW?
WHAT ARE YOU, A GRAND-MA?
HA HA HA!
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, YOU TWO...

ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU SHOULD SAY FIRST?
?

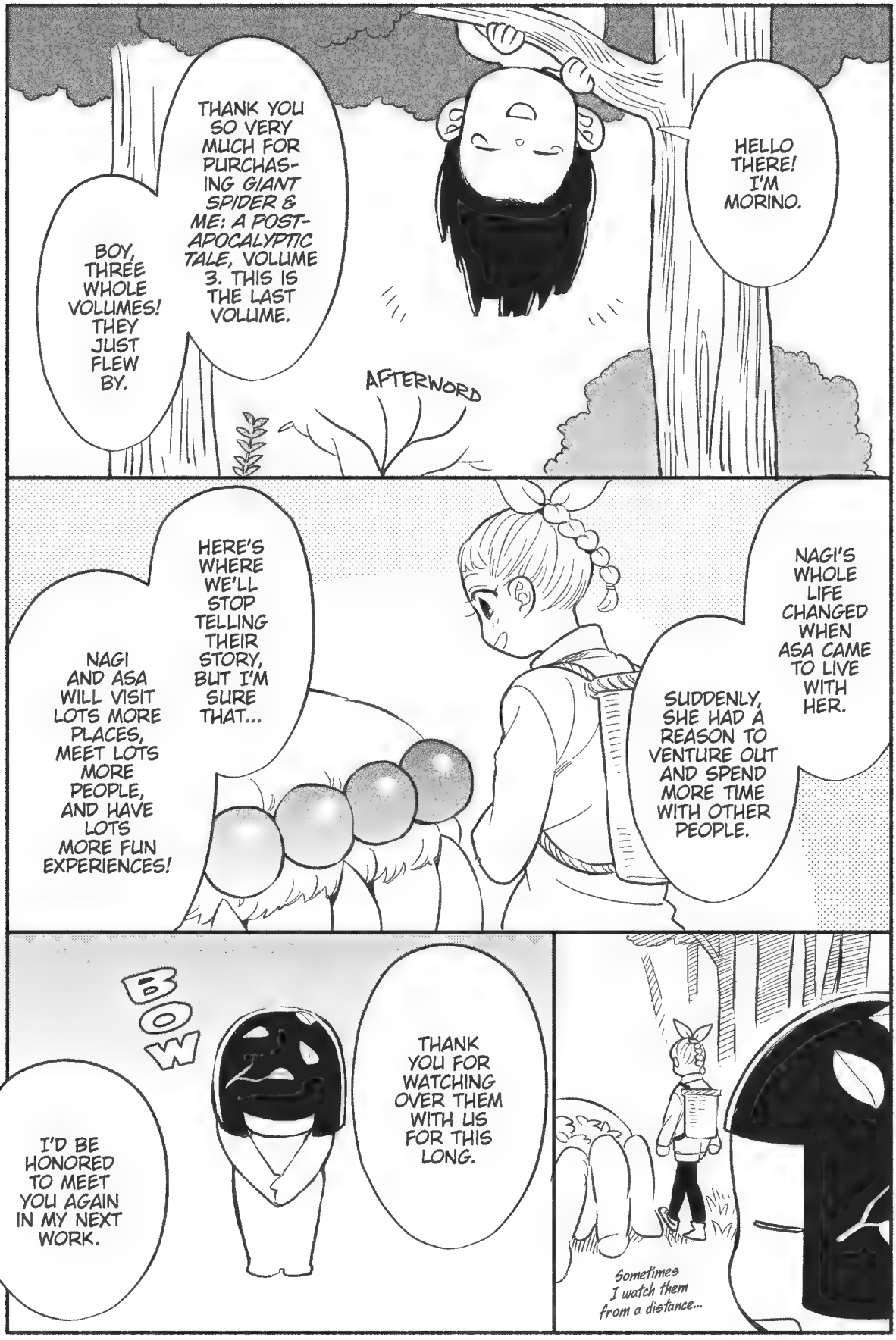
WELCOME HOME.
RIGHT! WE'RE HOME!

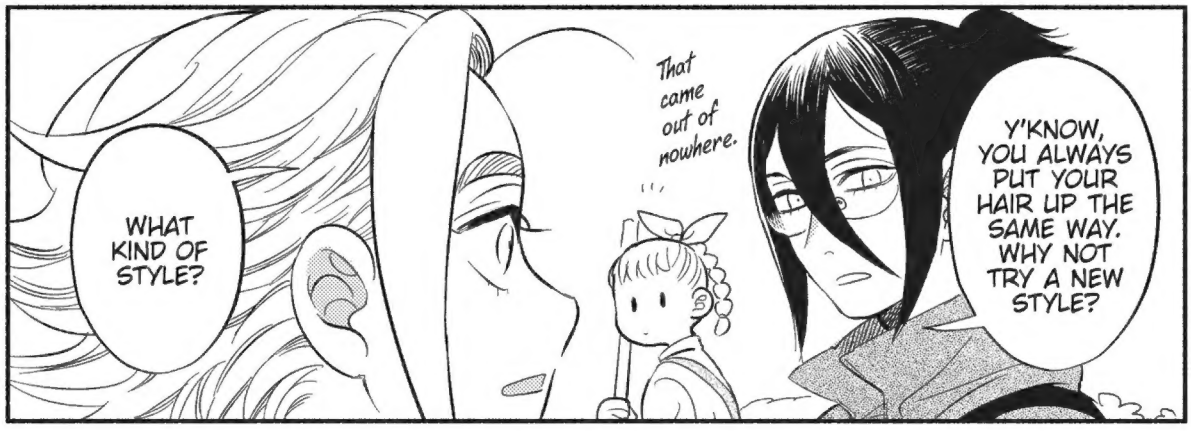
BRRR! IT'S FREEZING OUT HERE. LET'S GO IN.
MAKE ME SOMETHING HOT AND TASTY, OKAY?
OOH! I WANT SOME-THING, TOO!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN OPENED FOR THE DAY YET! BUT IF YOU INSIST...
LET US HELP! WE'LL MAKE SOME-THING, TOO.
THANK YOU, NAGI... AND ASA.
OH, FINE. I GUESS I COULD BE EXTRA SUPER NICE AND HELP, TOO.
THANK YOU, BELLE...
BTAM
THE END

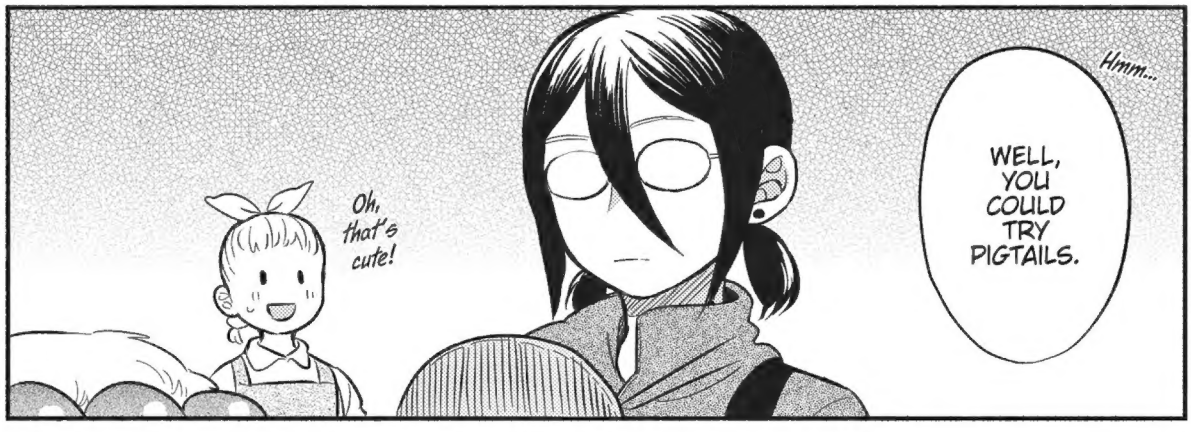
Giant Spider & Me

A Post-Apocalyptic Tale

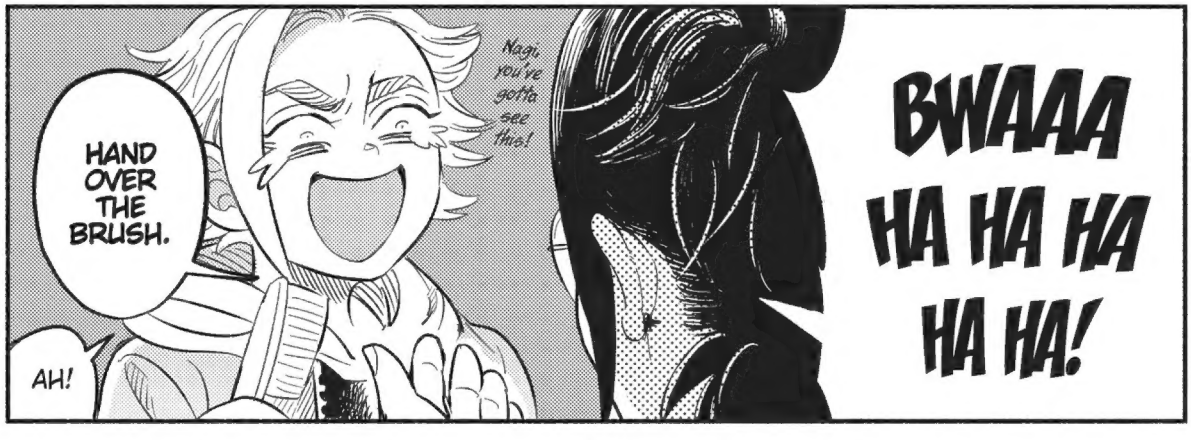
Afterword


HELLO THERE! I'M MORINO.
THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR PURCHASING *GIANT SPIDER & ME: A POST-APOCALYPTIC TALE*, VOLUME 3. THIS IS THE LAST VOLUME.
BOY, THREE WHOLE VOLUMES! THEY JUST FLEW BY.
AFTERWORD
NAGI'S WHOLE LIFE CHANGED WHEN ASA CAME TO LIVE WITH HER.
SUDDENLY, SHE HAD A REASON TO VENTURE OUT AND SPEND MORE TIME WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
HERE'S WHERE WE'LL STOP TELLING THEIR STORY, BUT I'M SURE THAT...
NAGI AND ASA WILL VISIT LOTS MORE PLACES, MEET LOTS MORE PEOPLE, AND HAVE LOTS MORE FUN EXPERIENCES!
Sometimes I watch them from a distance...
THANK YOU FOR WATCHING OVER THEM WITH US FOR THIS LONG.
BOW
I'D BE HONORED TO MEET YOU AGAIN IN MY NEXT WORK.


Y'KNOW, YOU ALWAYS PUT YOUR HAIR UP THE SAME WAY. WHY NOT TRY A NEW STYLE?
That came out of nowhere.
WHAT KIND OF STYLE?


Hmm...
WELL, YOU COULD TRY PIGTAILS.
Oh, that's cute!

OR MAYBE SOMETHING LIKE THIS--
Bffft!


BWAAA HA HA HA HA HA!
Nagi, you've gotta see this!
HAND OVER THE BRUSH.
AH!

Well, isn't this cute.
Very cute indeed.
I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm sorry!
What?! You want to do it too, Asa?

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

GIANT SPIDER & ME: A Post-Apocalyptic Tale VOL. 3

story and art by **KIKORI MORINO**

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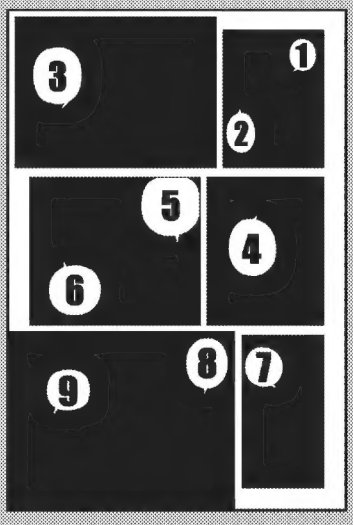
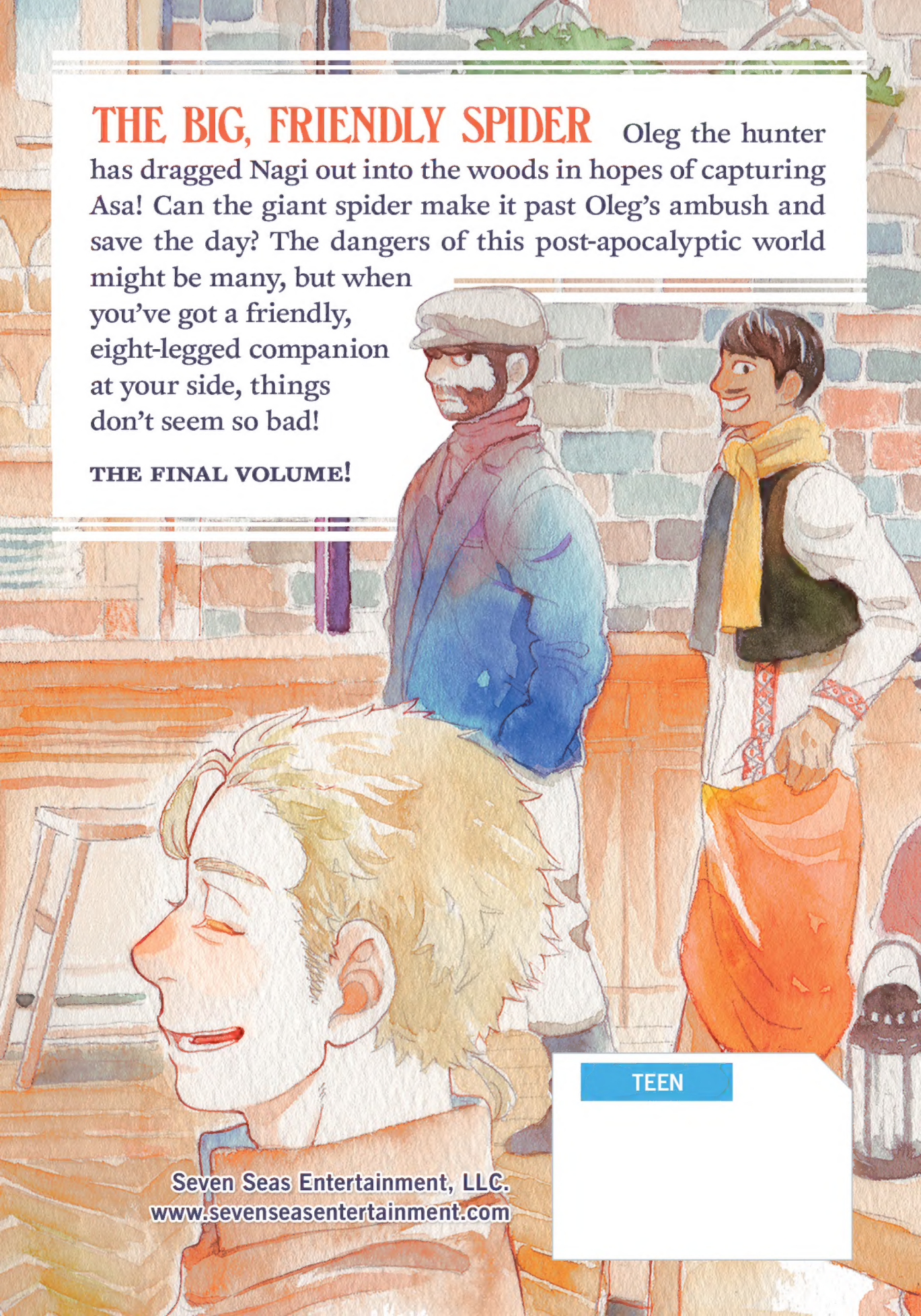
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!





THE BIG, FRIENDLY SPIDER

Oleg the hunter has dragged Nagi out into the woods in hopes of capturing Asa! Can the giant spider make it past Oleg's ambush and save the day? The dangers of this post-apocalyptic world might be many, but when you've got a friendly, eight-legged companion at your side, things don't seem so bad!

THE FINAL VOLUME!

TEEN

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